

10. - 766

| NAME   | A.O.U. |                |
|--|--------|----------------|
|  | NO.    | DATE           |
| ✓ Gull, Laughing ( <i>Larus Atricilla</i> )                    | 58     | June 22, 1936  |
| ✓ Tern, Gull Billed ( <i>Gelochelidon Nilotica</i> )           | 63     | June 26, 1936  |
| ✓ Tern, Common ( <i>Sterna Hirundo</i> )                       | 70     | June 26, 1936  |
| ✓ Skimmer, Black ( <i>Rynchops Nigra</i> )                     | 80     | June 24, 1936  |
| ✓ Bittern, Least * ( <i>Ixobrychus Exilis</i> )                | 191    | June 10, 1936  |
| ✓ Rail, Clapper ( <i>Rallus Longirostris</i> )                 | 211    | June 22, 1936  |
| ✓ Willet ( <i>Catoptrophorus Semipalmatus</i> )                | 258    | June 26, 1936  |
| ✓ Sandpiper, Spotted * ( <i>Aechis Macularia</i> )             | 263    | June 19, 1933  |
| ✓ Killdeer ( <i>Oxyechus Vexiferus</i> )                       | 273    | May 10, 1936   |
| ✓ Oystercatcher, American ( <i>Macmatopus Palliatus</i> )      | 286    | June 26, 1936  |
| ✓ Bob-White (Quail) * ( <i>Colinus Virginianus</i> )           | 289    | July 4, 1933   |
| ✓ Dove, Mourning * ( <i>Zenaidura Macroura</i> )               | 316    | May 17, 1934   |
| ✓ Vulture, Turkey ( <i>Cathartes Auro</i> )                    | 325    | April 23, 1935 |
| ✓ Vulture, Black ( <i>Coragyps Atreus</i> )                    | 326    | April 23, 1935 |
| ✓ Hawk, Cooper's ( <i>Accipiter Cooperi</i> )                  | 333    | May 3, 1936    |
| ✓ Hawk, American Red Tailed ( <i>Buteo Borealis</i> )          | 337    | April 21, 1932 |
| ✓ Hawk, American Sparrow ( <i>Falco Sparverius</i> )           | 360    | May 2, 1936    |
| ✓ Eagle, Bald ( <i>Haliaeetus Leucocephalus</i> )              | 352    | Feb. 19, 1939  |
| ✓ Hawk, Fish (Osprey) ( <i>Pandion Haliaetus</i> )             | 364    | May 13, 1934   |
| ✓ Owl, Eastern Screech * ( <i>Otus Asio</i> )                  | 373    | April 22, 1933 |
| ✓ Cuckoo, Yellow Billed * ( <i>Coccyzus Americanus</i> )       | 387    | June 6, 1933   |
| ✓ Kingfisher, Belted * ( <i>Megascops Alcyon</i> )             | 390    | April 25, 1932 |
| ✓ Woodpecker, Red Headed ( <i>Melanerpes Formicivorus</i> )    | 406    | May 21, 1933   |
| ✓ Flicker, Yellow Shafted * ( <i>Colaptes Auratus</i> )        | 412    | May 7, 1934    |
| ✓ Chuck-Wills-Widow * ( <i>Antrostomus Carolinensis</i> )      | 416    | May 13, 1934   |
| ✓ Whip-Poor-Will * ( <i>Antrostomus Vexiferus</i> )            | 417    | May 9, 1935    |
| ✓ Hummingbird, Ruby Throated * ( <i>Archilochus Colubris</i> ) | 428    | July 6, 1935   |
| ✓ Flycatcher, Great Crested ( <i>Tijariachus Crinitus</i> )    | 452    | June 3, 1936   |
| ✓ Phoebe * ( <i>Sayornis Phoebe</i> )                          | 456    | April 30, 1934 |
| ✓ Pewee, Wood * ( <i>Myiochanes Virens</i> )                   | 461    | June 11, 1935  |
| ✓ Jay, Blue * ( <i>Cyanocitta Cristata</i> )                   | 477    | April 29, 1933 |
| ✓ Crow, American * ( <i>Corvus Brachyrhynchos</i> )            | 488    | April 9, 1933  |
| ✓ Cowbird * ( <i>Molothrus Ater</i> )                          | 495    | May 13, 1935   |
| ✓ Blackbird, Red Winged * ( <i>Agelaius Phoeniceus</i> )       | 498    | May 12, 1933   |
| ✓ Meadowlark, Eastern * ( <i>Sturnella Magna</i> )             | 501    | July 21, 1934  |
| ✓ Oriole, Baltimore * ( <i>Icterus Galbula</i> )               | 507    | June 2, 1934   |
| ✓ Grackle, Purple * ( <i>Quiscalus Quiscalus</i> )             | 511    | May 7, 1934    |
| ✓ Grackle, Boat Tailed * ( <i>Cassidix Mexicana</i> )          | 513    | May 7, 1934    |
| ✓ Goldfinch, American ( <i>Spinus Tristis</i> )                | 529    | July 30, 1936  |
| ✓ Sparrow, English   |        | April 15, 1933 |
| ✓ Sparrow, Chipping * ( <i>Spizella Passerina</i> )            | 560    | May 20, 1934   |
| ✓ Sparrow, Field * ( <i>Spizella Fusilla</i> )                 | 563    | May 25, 1934   |
| ✓ Sparrow, Song * ( <i>Melospiza Melodia</i> )                 | 581    | May 28, 1934   |
| ✓ Towhee ( <i>Pipilo Erythrophthalmus</i> )                    | 587    | May 4, 1933    |
| ✓ Grosbeak, Cardinal * ( <i>Richmondia Cardinalis</i> )        | 593    | May 17, 1934   |



The greatest interest in the study of birds centers in their home life. Soon after their arrival from their winter quarters, all birds take upon themselves the duties of reproduction, the first step of which is the securing of a satisfactory location; some species, such as Auklets, Petrels, Burrowing Owls, Kingfishers, Bank Swallows, etc., nest at the end of burrows or holes in the ground; a great many nest upon the ground, some laying their eggs upon the bare sand, leaves, or rock, while others build nests, either bulky or slight as suits their respective tastes; hundreds construct their homes among the branches in the tops of trees, and still others swaying from the ends of the outermost limbs; other species lay their eggs at the bottom of holes in trees, either in natural cavities or in holes dug by their own efforts, the most noticeable in the latter class being the Woodpeckers, which often chisel their way into living trees.

The study of nests alone is most interesting; the rude and slight platforms of the Herons, Cuckoos, Grosbeaks, etc.; the rough but substantial structures of the Robin; and the exquisite, architectural creations of the Hummingbirds, Orioles, Flycatchers, Bush-tits, etc. Surely the work of some of these little feathered creatures, these "homes without hands", show as great a degree of skill and artistic temperament as is seen in the human race.

The eggs of the different species vary through all the tints from white to blue, green and brown, some unmarked, others handsomely specked, spotted, blotched or wreathed with different shades of brown, lilac and lavender, and their sizes vary from that of the diminutive Hummingbird to the Albatross, Swan and California Vulture as the largest North American eggs, and the Ostich of Africa whose egg will contain several quarts.

(From "North American Birds Eggs"  
by Chester A. Reed)

A.O.U.

NAME

NO.

DATE

|  |     |                |
|--|-----|----------------|
| Tanager, Scarlet * ( <i>Piranga erythraea</i> )          | 608 | May 25, 1935   |
| Tanager, Summer * ( <i>Piranga rubra</i> )               | 610 | May 22, 1935   |
| Swallow, Barn ( <i>Hirundo erythrogaster</i> )           | 613 | June 21, 1936  |
| Swallow, Rough Winged *                                  | 617 | May 23, 1934   |
| Vireo, Red Eyed ( <i>Vireo olivaceus</i> )               | 624 | May 21, 1933   |
| Vireo, White Eyed ( <i>Vireo griseus</i> )               | 631 | May 12, 1933   |
| Warbler, Yellow * ( <i>Dendroica aestiva</i> )           | 652 | May 22, 1935   |
| Ovenbird * ( <i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i> )               | 674 | May 10, 1935   |
| Waterthrush, Louisiana * ( <i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i> ) | 676 | April 21, 1935 |
| Warbler, Maryland Yellow Thrt. *                         | 681 | May 13, 1935   |
| Chat, Yellow Breasted ( <i>Geothlypis trichas</i> )      | 683 | May 31, 1932   |
| Mockingbird * ( <i>Mimus polyglottos</i> )               | 703 | May 23, 1933   |
| Catbird * ( <i>Dumetella carolinensis</i> )              | 704 | May 23, 1934   |
| Thrasher, Brown ( <i>Toxostoma rufum</i> )               | 705 | April 28, 1933 |
| Wren, Carolina ( <i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i> )       | 718 | June 22, 1933  |
| Wren, House * ( <i>Troglodytes aedon</i> )               | 721 | May 27, 1934   |
| Chickadee, Carolina * ( <i>Parus atricapillus</i> )      | 736 | May 7, 1934    |
| Gnatcatcher, Blue Gray * ( <i>Polioptila caerulea</i> )  | 751 | May 16, 1935   |
| Thrush, Wood * ( <i>Hylocichla ustulata</i> )            | 755 | May 28, 1934   |
| Robin, American * ( <i>Turdus migratorius</i> )          | 761 | May 2, 1934    |
| Bluebird, Eastern * ( <i>Sialia sialis</i> )             | 766 | May 27, 1934   |
| Starling, European *                                     | 493 | April 4, 1935  |

Egg Collection made by

Joshua F. B. Camblos

Big Stone Gap, Virginia





# BIRD'S EGGS

THIS COLLECTION WAS BEGUN

IN SPRING 1932.

15 DIFFERENT SETS

1932

| NAME                | No. | No. in SET | Inc. | Size                          | DATE     | LOCATION                   |
|---------------------|-----|------------|------|-------------------------------|----------|----------------------------|
| PHOEBE              | A   | 4          | F    | 1.55-1.72-58<br>1.16-58-76-58 | APRIL 4  | B.S.G. (100' UNDER BRIDGE) |
| GRACKLE, PURPLE     | A   | 5          | F    |                               | " 5      | "                          |
| SPARROW, ENG.*      | A   | 5          | F    |                               | " 1      | "                          |
| HAWK, RED T.*       | A   | 1          | 1/2  | 2.33-1.87                     | " 21     | "                          |
| SPARROW, CHIA       | A   | 4          | F    |                               | " 25     | "                          |
| NINGFISHER, BELL.*  | A   | 6          | F    |                               | APRIL 25 | "                          |
| BLUEBIRD, EAST.     | A   | 4          | F    |                               | " 31     | "                          |
| SPARROW, W. TAR.*   | A   | 3          | F    |                               | " 30     | "                          |
| SPARROW, TREE       | A   | 3          | F    |                               | MAY 2    | "                          |
| REDSTART, AMER.     | A   | 3          | F    |                               | " 21     | "                          |
| CHAT, YEL. BREAST.* | A   | 4          | F    |                               | " 31     | "                          |
| ORIOLE, ORCH.       | A   | 3          | 1/2  |                               | JUNE 2   | "                          |
| TANAGER, SCARL.     | A   | 3          | 1/2  |                               | JUNE 2   | "                          |
| WARBLER, M.Y.T.     | A   |            | 9/10 |                               | " 3      | "                          |
| TBIRD               | A   | 4          | F    |                               | " 3      | "                          |

04

| NAME                | NO. | NO. IN SET | INC. | SIZE                                       | DATE    | LOCATION       |
|---------------------|-----|------------|------|--|---------|----------------|
| CROW, AMER. *       | A   | 4          | F    | 1.28-1.17 1.10-1.06<br>1.25-1.14 1.07-1.05 | APRIL 9 | B.S.G. (MOOTS) |
| WREN, HOUSE         | A   | 5          | F    |  | " 16    | "              |
| KILLDEER            | A   | 4          | 9/10 |  | " 21    | "              |
| CHICKEN, EUR. *     | A   | 5          | 3/4  |  | " 21    | "              |
| VULTURE, TURK *     | A   | 2          | F    | 1.96 1.95<br>2.24 2.26                     | " 23    | "              |
| ROBIN, AMER. A      | A   | 4          | F    |  | " 23    | "              |
| CWL, CREECH *       | A   | 3          | 3/4  | 1.41 1.38 1.21<br>1.22 1.40 1.21           | " 22    | "              |
| THUNDER, BR. *      | A   | 4          | F    |  | " 28    | "              |
| WY, BLUE *          | A   | 4          | F    |  | " 29    | "              |
| LOUISE *            | A   | 4          | 1/5  |  | MAY 4   | "              |
| VIREO, W. EYED *    | A   | 3          | F    | .76-.42<br>.74-.41 .75-.41                 | " 12    | "              |
| DOVE, MOURN. A      | A   | 2          | F    |  | " 14    | "              |
| CROOKER, C. A       | A   | 3          | F    |  | " 18    | "              |
| CHICK, BAL. A       | A   | 3          | F    |  | " 20    | "              |
| VIREO, W. EYED *    | A   | 3          | F    | .73-.59<br>.82-.59 .78-.60                 | " 21    | "              |
| WOODPECKER, R. H. * | A   | 5          | F    |  | " 21    | "              |
| WOODPECKER, R. H. * | A   | 5          | F    |  | " 23    | "              |
| FLICKER, Y. S. *    | A   | 6          | F    |  | JUNE 2  | "              |
| FLICKER, Y. S. *    | A   | 3          | F    |  | " 6     | "              |
| SEMPER, SEMIPAL. A  | A   | 4          | F    | 1.19 .91 1.24 .92<br>1.20 .91 1.19 .92     | " 19    | "              |
| WREN, CAROL. *      | A   | 3          | 1/3  | .74-.57 .73-.56<br>.71-.56                 | " 22    | "              |
| WREN, WINTER *      | A   | 5          | F    |  | " 22    | "              |
| BOB WHITE *         | A   | 14         | 1/2  |  | JULY 4  | "              |
| WICK, W. A. *       | A   | 4          | F    |  | MAY 12  | "              |



1934

| NAME  | No. | No. in Set | Inc.           | Size                                      | Date     | Loc.  |
|---|-----|------------|----------------|---|----------|-------|
| BLUEBIRD, EAST.                             | B   | 4          | F              |   | APRIL 15 |       |
| GRACKLE, PUR.                               | B   | 4          | F              |   | " 30     |       |
| PHOEBE *                                    | B   | 5          | F              | 77-57 77-58<br>78-58 78-59<br>76-57 76-57 | " 30     |       |
| ROBIN, AMER.                                | B   | 3          | F              |   | " 23     |       |
| ROBIN, AMER.                                | C   | 4          | $\frac{1}{4}$  |   | " 30     |       |
| JAY, BLUE                                   | B   | 4          | F              |   | MAY 2    |       |
| ROBIN, AMER. *                              | D   | 4          | F              |   | " 2      |       |
| BLUEBIRD, EAST.                             | C   | 3          | F              |   | " 7      |       |
| CHICADEE, B. C. *                           | A   | 3          | F              |   | " 7      |       |
| FLICKER, Y. S. *                            | B   | 6          | $\frac{1}{6}$  |   | " 7      |       |
| GRACKLE, <del>PUR.</del> <sup>B. T.</sup> * | C   | 4          | $\frac{1}{5}$  |   | " 7      |       |
| GRACKLE, PURP. *                            | D   | 5          | F              |   | " 7      |       |
| JAY, BLUE                                   | C   | 4          | F              |   | " 7      |       |
| MOCKINGBIRD                                 | B   | 4          | F              |   | " 7      |       |
| OSPREY (FISH HAWK)                          | A   | 3          | $\frac{9}{10}$ |   | " 13     |       |
| OSPREY                                      | B   | 3          | F              | 2.32 2.34 1.38<br>1.30 2.31 1.78          | " 13     |       |
| OSPREY                                      | C   | 2          | F              | 2.32 2.28<br>1.65 1.68                    | " 13     |       |
| OSPREY *                                    | D   |            |                | 2.35 2.40<br>1.78 2.41 1.78               | " 13     |       |
| OSPREY                                      | E   | 2          | F              | 2.26 2.32<br>1.69 1.74                    | " 13     |       |
| OSPREY                                      | F   | 3          | $\frac{1}{2}$  | 2.52 2.46 2.83<br>1.83 2.44 1.81          | " 13     |       |
| CHUCK-WILLS-WIDOW                           |     |            |                | 1.42 1.42                                 | " 13     |       |
| WH. PLOVER WIL *                            | A   | 2          | F              | .92 1.00                                  | " 13     |       |
| SPARRON, CHIP.                              | B   | 3          | $\frac{1}{3}$  |   | " 15     | LYNCH |
| WREN, HOUSE                                 | B   | 7          | F              |   | " 15     |       |
| CATBIRD                                     | B   | 4          | F              |   | " 15     |       |
| DOVE, MOURN. *                              | B   | 2          | F              |   | " 15     |       |
| GRACKLE, PURP.                              | E   | 4          | $\frac{3}{4}$  |   | " 17     |       |
| GROSBEAK, CARD. *                           | B   | 3          | F              |   | " 17     |       |
| SPARRON, ENG.                               | B   | 4          | $\frac{1}{3}$  |   | " 17     |       |
| SPARRON, CHIP. *                            |     |            |                |   | " 30     |       |

- 1934 -

| NAME            | NO. | NO. IN SET | INC. | SIZE                               | DATE    | LOCATION                       |
|-----------------|-----|------------|------|------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|
| SPARROW ONE     | A   | 4/1        | F    |                                    | MAY 20  | LYNCHBURG                      |
| VULTURE, 1000   |     | 1          | 1/3  | 2.73 - 1.92                        | " 21    | "                              |
| WREN, HOUSE     | C   | 6          | F    |                                    | " 20    | "                              |
| WREN, HOUSE     | D   | 7          | 1/3  |                                    | " 20    | "                              |
| SHAWBIRD *      | B   | 5          | F    |                                    | " 23    | "                              |
| SWALLOW R.W. *  | A   | 6          | F    |                                    | " 23    | "                              |
| SPARROW FIELD * | A   | 4          | 1/6  | 70-52, 67-52<br>67-51, 68-51       | " 25    | "                              |
| SHAWBIRD        | ED  | 4          | 1/2  |                                    | " 25    | "                              |
| SHAWBIRD        | EE  | 4          | F    |                                    | " 25    | "                              |
| DOVE, PLOON     | C   | 2          | F    |                                    | " 26    | "                              |
| SHAWBIRD *      | D   | 4          | F    |                                    | " 27    | "                              |
| WREN, HOUSE     | E   | 8          | F    |                                    | " 27    | "                              |
| ORIOLE, BALD *  | B   | 3          | 3/4  |                                    | JUNE 2  | "                              |
| MCDONALD LARK * | A   | 4          | 1/2  | 1.15-83 1.11-84<br>1.14-83 1.20-83 | JULY 21 | B.S.G. (COUNTRY CLUB)          |
| SPARROW, SONG * | B   | 4          | F    |                                    | MAY 28  | LYNCHBURG (V.E.S.)             |
| THRU-NECKED *   | A   | 4          | F    |                                    | " 28    | "                              |
| THRU-NECKED     | B   | 3          | 1/2  |                                    | " 28    | "                              |
| SHAWBIRD, SP. * | A   | 3          | F    | 1.38-90 1.29-95<br>1.20-93         | MAY 20  | B.S.G. (LOWER ISLAND DONNELLY) |
| WREN, HOUSE *   | F   | 8          | F    |                                    | " 27    | V.E.S.                         |



1935

| NAME                | No. | No. in SET | INC. | SIZE   | DATE       | LOCATION         |
|---------------------|-----|------------|------|--|------------|------------------|
| WATER THRUSH *      | 5   | F          |      | .79 x .60<br>.72 x .58<br>.72 x .58<br>.71 x .57 |            |                  |
| STARLING, EUROPE *  | 5   | F          |      | 1.12-.83<br>1.13-.82<br>1.13-.83                 |            |                  |
| VULTURE, TURKEY     | 2   | 1/5        |      | 2.90 x 1.82<br>2.83 x 1.83                       |            |                  |
| OVENBIRD *          | 6   | F          |      | .74 x .55<br>.75 x .56<br>.75 x .55              |            |                  |
| WHIP-POOR-WILL *    | 2   | F          |      | 1.09 x .79<br>1.05 x .77                         |            |                  |
| TANAGER, SCAR. *    | 4   | F          |      |  | " 25       | LYNCHBURG (V.E.) |
| " , SUM. *          | 4   | F          |      |  | " 22       | "                |
| BITTERN, LEAST *    | 3   | 1/2        |      |  | JUNE 10    | VA. BEACH        |
| PEWEE, WOOD *       | 3   | 1/3        |      |  | " 11       | Lynchburg (V.E.) |
| HUMMINGBIRD, R.T. * | 1   | F.         |      |  | JULY 6     | B.S.G.           |
| WARBLER, YELLOW *   | 4   | F.         |      |  | MAY 22     | LYNCHBURG (V.E.) |
| GNATCATCHER (BL.) * | 4   | 1/5        |      |  | " 16       | "                |
| WARBLER, M.Y.T. *   | 5   | F          |      |  | " 13       | "                |
| HAWK, COOP.         | 4   | F          |      |  | MAY 3 '36  | C'ville          |
| " , SPARROW         | 5   | F          |      |  | MAY 2 '36  | C'ville          |
| KILLDEER            | 4   | F          |      |  | MAY 10 '36 | C'ville          |
| FLYCATCHER (CREST.) | 5   | F          |      |  | JUNE 3 '36 | C'ville          |

Eggs

Collected



NAME - Gull-Billed Tern (63)  
(GEOFFREY'S TERN)

DATE - JUNE 6, 1942

No. - 3

INC. -  $\frac{9}{10}$

SIZES -

SITUATION - This species  
along with the Common  
and Forster's Terns  
ed in the same  
as the Black  
The Common and  
Terns nested  
(1 or 2 ft.) to the  
shimmer, while the  
Gull-Billed Terns  
ferred more  
farther away (20

This set of eggs  
taken from a hollow  
the sand about  
flood tide mark.

PARRAMORE Is., Va.

NAME - AMERICAN GOLDFINCH (529)

DATE - JULY 30, 1936

NO. - 4

INC. - FRESH

SIZES -

SITUATION - 25' in a maple on one of the topmost limbs. Firmly fixed to the limb and a supporting branch with fibers. Situated about 5' from main body of the tree which was about 25' high - Big Stone Gap, Va.

(Jase)



NAME - BLACK SKINNED (M)  
(RYNCHOPS NIGRA)

DATE - JUNE 24, '36

NO. - 4 SEES - 2, 3, 3, 6

LOC. - F. F. 55

SIZES -

SITUATION - On the beach  
on a wide beach -  
The sand was used  
to form a nest for the  
eggs. About 400 of  
nests were observed on a  
half-mile of beach. Two  
smaller colonies were  
found on this same beach.

The greatest no. of eggs  
in a single nest was 4,  
three being the average no.  
and many nests were  
found containing 2 eggs  
with well developed embryos.

PARRAMORE IS., VA.

NAME - COMMON TERN (70)  
(*STERNA HIRUNDO*)

DATE - JUNE 26, 1936

NO. - 3

INC. -  $\frac{1}{2}$

SIZES -

SITUATION - On top of a small sand "dune" about 15' from high water line. A Black Skimmer's nest containing one chick and two eggs was about 10" away at the base of the sand "dune". Two young birds & adult terns kept up a continuous "chat" the whole time near the nest.

No nesting material, a mere depression in the sand.

PARRAMORE IS., V.I.



NAME - CLAPPER RAIL (211)  
(RALLUS CREPITANS)

DATE - JUNE 23, '36

NO. - 10

INCUBATION -  $\frac{9}{10}$

SITUATION - THE NEST WAS LOCATED  
IN HIGH GRASS IN A MARSH ABOUT  
1 MI. FROM WACHAPREAGUE, VA.  
IT WAS COMPOSED OF GRASSES  
INTERLINED IN THE TALL GRASS, WHICH  
HELD IT A FEW INCHES ABOVE THE  
GROUND.

NAME - WILLET (358)  
(CATAPHORTHOSUS SEMIPALMATUS)

DATE - JUNE 30, '36

NO. - 4

INCUBATION - FRESH

SIZES -

SITUATION - TWO NESTS OF THIS BIRD WERE FOUND ON A SMALL ISLAND IN A POND IN THE SAME MARSH AS THE LAUGHING GULLS NESTED. EACH NEST CONTAINED FOUR EGGS.

THIS SET WAS TAKEN FROM A NEST VERY CLOSE TO THE EDGE OF THE WATER. THE NEST WAS PLACED ON THE GROUND AND WAS COMPOSED OF GRASSES INTERLINED WITH THE TALL GRASS - IT WAS CLEVERLY CONCEALED. THE BIRD FLUSHED WHEN APPROACHED WITHIN A FEW FEET.

WACHAPREAGUE, VA.



NAME - LAUGHING GULL (58)  
(LARUS ATRICILLA)

DATE - JUNE 23, '36

NO. - 3

INCUBATION -  $\frac{1}{3}$

SIZES -

SITUATION - A COLONY OF THESE BIRDS MADE THEIR NESTS ON SMALL ISLANDS IN A POND IN <sup>SALT-WATER</sup> A MARSH AND ON THE HIGHER SPOTS AROUND THE POND. THERE WERE ABOUT 100 NESTS IN ALL - THE NESTS WERE BUILT UP FROM SEAWEED AND DEAD MARSH GRASS ANYWHERE FROM 4" TO 18".

THIS PARTICULAR SET WAS TAKEN FROM ONE OF THE NESTS ON AN ISLAND IN THE POND. THE NEST WAS APPR. 10" HIGH, 6" IN DIAM. AND 1" DEEP.

THE MARSH WAS ABOUT 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  MILE FROM WACHAPREAGUE, VA. AND COVERED APPR. 2 SQ. MI.

NAME - BARN SWALLOW (613)

DATE - JUNE 21, '36

NO. - 4

INCUBATION - FRESH

SIZES -

SITUATION - THE NEST WAS PLACED ON A BEAM ABOUT 12' FROM THE FLOOR IN AN OLD SHACK ON A SMALL ISLAND ABOUT 3 MI. FROM WARHOPPEN, VA. THE NEST WAS COMPOSED OF MUD PELLETS, INTERWOVEN WITH GRASS, AND LINED WITH FINE GRASS & FEATHERS.



NOTES ON THE NESTING OF BALD EAGLES AS OBSERVED  
IN PRINCESS ANNE COUNTY, VIRGINIA - APR. 4, 1937

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The trip described below was prompted to some degree by a keen interest to see these large and comparatively rare birds in their native haunts during the breeding season; however, the main object in making the trip was, of course, to secure a set of Bald Eagle's eggs.

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Dad dropped by the University around 12:30 P.M. on Sat., April 3rd and we left for the beach as soon as I was able to get all the necessary equipment together, which required a little less than half an hour. We arrived at Ocean View, Va. a few minutes after seven that night and since our territory "to be explored" was in this vicinity, we spent the night there. A fine, light rain was falling at that time which, along with the natural cold air and a very biting wind seemed to indicate a "trying morrow". Fortunately, the proprietor of our little abode had forethought enough to place a small but greatly appreciated oil stove in the room. We retired after the necessary preparations for the following day with high spirits for a successful intrusion upon that majestic bird - the Bald Eagle.

At the appointed hour we awoke and remained in bed until the little burner had warmed the room to some extent and the air was certainly cold at that hour - At 7:00 A.M. we were fully clothed and ready to start on our little adventure. However, we were not so enthusiastic as to forget food! And so, after a hearty breakfast (for we've experienced these all-day trips before) we proceeded to Chesapeake Beach, a small "hot-spot" during the tourist season. Our plan was to work up the beach from here - toward Little Creek - until we observed a patch of trees large enough to serve as nesting sites for our quarry. This was a much more

sensible plan than that of trying to run into such territory by directly trudging through the swamps, marshes and thick underbrush we knew lay between the beach and the main highway. Another point in adopting this plan was brought out by the fact that the beach would lead us to our original destination, the mouth of Little Creek. At this part of the beach I had observed the preceding summer when crossing the Bay from Cape Charles, a few eagles perched on several snags that jut prominently up from the sand dunes. One or two of these snags were characterized by having a large nest, possibly that of an eagle.

So, with this idea in mind we set out from Chesapeake Beach. Our equipment included a repeating .25-.20 Winchester rifle, 50' of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " Manila rope, a pair of climbing irons, an Argus Camera, a canteen, my collecting case, and a gallon jug of water. We walked about a mile when we spotted a prospective patch of pines and decided to investigate it. Realizing the awkwardness in carrying the jug of water through heavy underbrush and the fact that we were already heavily loaded, we each drank as much of the water as we could and hid the jug in the sand dunes.

The chances of finding a nest in this group of pines looked very good and our enthusiasm was greatly increased when we observed a Bald Eagle in the second-year plumage fly from the top of a dead tree in the edge of the pines. However, we were doomed to disappointment when, after an exhaustive search no sign of a nest was found.

We left this area and soon came upon one which was even more suitable for our purpose. Another bird, a bit more advanced toward full adult plumage than the first one encountered, was flushed from this area but with the same disappointing result as before. We were really beginning to wonder if we weren't mistaken about the possibility of these birds nesting anywhere in this region since this growth of trees seemed ideal for them.



However, we were determined to find out definitely, if Bald Eagles nested in that section. And so, a bit discouraged but still hopeful, we proceeded to the mouth of Little Creek. On arriving there only one nest was in sight and it was being repaired by a pair of Fish Hawks. We were just about to give up after this last disappointment when we noticed several eagles in adult plumage circling high up in the air over us. Realizing that the breeding season was in full swing we reasoned that these birds must be nesting somewhere near. We observed a large area of pines across an arm of Little Creek and decided that that had to be their nesting site since we had explored all the other suitable places in that section. We retraced our steps for several hundred yards and were just entering the woods when our attentions were attracted by a sudden outburst of noises overhead. Having heard the cry of a Bald Eagle the preceeding summer I immediately recognized this sound as that of one of the huge birds. It is a cry that is not easily forgotten - especially by anyone interested in ornithology. We continued on in high spirits over this valuable sign - keeping our eyes open for any sign of a nest. The eagle kept following us and seemed to become more disturbed every minute over our intrusion upon his territory. After walking a little bit farther we spotted the huge nest of this bird within ten feet of the top of one of the largest pines I have ever seen. By this time the mate of the first bird had arrived and both of them were quite wrought up over our presence; they circled over the tops of the trees screaming every few seconds.

The job of climbing the tree certainly looked difficult to me since I could hardly reach half way around it at the base and the first limb which would support my weight was fully thirty feet from the ground and from all appearances was dead. However, we were determined to exhaust every possible means of getting me up that tree before we gave it up in defeat. I tried to climb

it using my climbing irons and trying to hold on to the tree by digging my fingers into the large crevices in the bark. However, this proved futile - the bark was too thick to allow the spurs to really hold and I had great difficulty in securing sufficient holds on the bark with my hands. We gave up this idea and hit upon the plan of throwing the rope over the large limb about thirty feet up the tree and my trying to climb the rope with Dad holding it taut on the ground. This plan did work, but it was very hard work climbing that rope hand over hand for even that small distance. I was loaded down with heavy clothing, a camera, the climbing irons and my collecting case. After much puffing and straining, I finally made a successful start on ascending the big pine. However, the hard work was just beginning to start for I was entirely "on my own" the rest of the way since the rope was too short for Dad to be able to help. I proceeded in the same manner as I had started up but with much greater risk and difficulty since the ends of the rope were free to swing which, of course, allowed the whole works to sway. It took just about an hour for me to get to the nest from that first limb which was the hardest climbing I have ever done in all my six years of activity in the study of oology. I was very tired when I reached the four-pronged fork that supported the nest - to say nothing of being a bit nervous from almost falling to the ground at two different times during my ascent.

After resting for a few minutes I climbed up to an comfortable seat at the edge of the nest. Again I was disappointed, for instead of eggs, there were two young Bald Eagles in the nest. One was about two weeks old while the other seemed to be about three weeks old - The former bird payed no attention to me whatsoever, but the older one sat back on his rump and "gave me hell". Each bird was covered with gray down - the older one, however, was of a darker shade than the younger.

The nest was at least three years old and had



as is customary with these large eagles, had been used and repaired each succeeding year. The dimensions of the nest were approximately as follows: outside height - 4' ; outside diameter 5' ; inside diameter -  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ' ; inside depth 8" . The nesting materials consisted of large sticks, twigs, cornstalks and other similar rubbish - the nest was lined with clumps of grass and seaweed. The whole nest was a prototype of that of an Osprey, but of course, it was considerably larger, both as a whole and also in the sizes of its components. The nest contained, besides the young birds, about a dozen half-eaten fish ranging in size from six inches to fifteen. I was able to identify a few of them as Bluefish, Croakers and one or two Spots. I remained at the nest for about half an hour - taking notes and snapshots.

All the time we were in the vicinity of the nest and even while I was up in it, the adult eagles circled very high up in the air - even so high as to be out of range of the Winchester .25-.20. Only once did they come within range - and that was when I reached the nest and the young one began screaming. Even then, the parent birds made no attempts to attack me and did not come closer than a hundred yards. This attitude exhibited by these Bald Eagles is quite contrary to popular opinion since many people believe that they are very ferocious and will even attack small children. All these stories are, of course absolutely without bases or are grossly exaggerated.

When I had finished taking my notes and a few snapshots, I descended the tree in the same manner as I had come up until I reached the large dead limb about thirty feet from the ground. At this point I made a loop in the end of the rope, put my foot in it, threw the other end over the limb, and descended to the ground - This was an application of a simple machine: I was the weight, the limb was the fulcrum and Dad was the controlling force. It was really quite an ingenious method since I did no work at all and Dad had to do very little since the limb supported practically all my weight and the friction of

the rope on the limb put very little strain on Dad.

*Nest #1 (See my Map attached)*

The tree in which this nest was located was one of the largest pines I have ever seen. It was fully 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  or 5 feet in diameter at the base and about 85' high; it was by far, the largest tree in that wooded area and the birds could not have chosen a more inaccessible place to nest under the existing circumstances. From the nest I could see far out into the Bay which was about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile away - had it been a clear day I would have undoubtedly been able to see for many miles. This huge pine was located on the edge of a small marsh and at its end. The marsh was connected at the other end with an arm of Little Creek.

We explored the rest of the area and found two other large nests - one which was occupied by a pair of full grown birds and the other unoccupied. However, I did not climb either of the trees - the first, because it would contain young and not eggs and the second, for obvious reasons.

It was getting rather late in the afternoon at this point and we were both tired so we decided to start back. We made our way straight for the beach because it would be easier to walk there than through the woods. Our water supply in the canteen had been exhausted about an hour before we started back so we were very glad to get to our jug in the sand dunes. After a huge supper we left the beach at 6:00 P.M. for Charlottesville and arrived about 11, having had rain all the way from Yorktown.

(JFBC - 4/4/'37)

\* \* \* \* \*



SECOND TRIP TO STUDY THE NESTING OF BALD EAGLES  
IN PRINCESS ANNE COUNTY, VIRGINIA - MAR. 19, 1938

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The account given here is a sequence to that given of a similiar trip on April 4, 1937. The reasons for making the trip were the same in both cases. By making a study of these nests of the Bald Eagle over a period of two or three years it is hoped that some valuable information may be procured, from which some helpful and accurate deductions may be made as to the habits of these large and comparatively rare birds on the coast of this state during the breeding season.

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Left the University at 4:45 A.M. with Dad and Jack - arrived at beach at 9. We found an improvised road which had been used as an access to a Kiwanis Camp during the summer. The camp site was about three miles from the mouth of Little Creek. We parked the car at the old camp and proceeded on foot from there to the large nest about two miles from Little Creek and the one which we studied in 1937. On arriving at the nest we found very little evidence that it was occupied - the adult birds did not make their appearance and we finally concluded that the nest was deserted. We did not climb the tree, however.

Nest  
#2

We proceeded from this spot to the other two nests we had found the preceeding year. The first one we examined was the one which had been unoccupied in 1937. However, we thought that it was being used this year because we observed a two-year old bird fly from the vicinity when we approached the nest. There were various other signs which we noticed; among the most prominent of these was the comparatively large amount of excrement around the nest. This fact seemed odd because it was so early in the breeding season. On examining the nest it was found to be occupied by Great Horned Owls and it contained two young birds - one, about two or two weeks and a

half in age, and the other about a week or so old. The female Owl stayed in the vicinity of the nest all the time and was very wrought-up over our intrusion. She kept moving about continually and every minute or so she would utter a soft 'hoo-o-o'.

*Nest #3*  
*our* We left this nest and proceeded on to the other nest in that part of the woods which had been in use the year before. On arriving within sight of the nest the female left the nest. In order to determine if there was a possibility of the nest containing eggs without actually climbing the tree we hit upon this plan: The Eagle had seen us in the woods and of course knew of presence; if two of us went on past the nest and out of that section of the woods while the third man hid himself well, wouldn't the bird return to her task of incubating when she saw the two leave the vicinity of the nest? We reasoned that the Bald Eagle is not intelligent enough to realize that one man has disappeared. If there were young in the nest she would make a lot of fuss over our presence. She did raise some objection but soon flew away. When she had gone, I carefully hid myself under one of the many entanglements of honeysuckle, bushes, briars, and small trees which cover the floor of the woods. In a few minutes, after Dad and Jack had had time to get a sufficient distance away from the nest the female bird did return. I had chosen as my place of concealment, a thick undergrowth within fifty yards of the base of the tree in which the nest was located. When the huge bird returned to the tree it sounded like an airplane gliding very close overhead so great was the rush of air through the birds feathers. She came to rest on a big limb which supported the nest - after carefully surveying the woods all around, she hopped over onto the nest and settled down upon it. From this action we concluded that there must be eggs in the nest.

I then made arrangements to climb up to the nest; I took a small gas-mask bag up with me, in which I had placed my camera, some long cord and a hunting knife. The tree was about 90' in



height and the nest was about 70' up and supported against the trunk by three large limbs. The tree was devoid of limbs for the first 45' and I had to rely upon my climbing irons entirely. The bark of the tree was rather thick most of the way up and it was also covered with many dead vines which impeded a good and accurate grip with the climbing irons. After climbing up about 30' the vines became so prominent and presented such a hazard that I had to set my spurs firmly, hold on to the tree with one hand and with the other tear the vines loose. This took lots of time and was very tedious work not to mention the many small pieces of bark that continually got in my eyes and added even more to the danger of climbing the tree. However, after slipping twice, I finally arrived at the first big limb upon which I could rest. From this spot to the nest was comparatively easy going.

On reaching the nest I found two young Bald Eagles, each of which was less than twenty four hours old - they still possessed the 'egg-tooth'. The nest also contained an egg in which the embryo was practically ready to begin to emerge. There were two half-eaten fish about 8" long and the remains of an eel which would have measured some two or two and a half feet when alive. I took some snapshots and notes and then descended the tree.

The parent birds kept well out of range - while I was in the tree the male bird came in sight for the first and only time and he and the female kept circling high in the air screaming once in a while.

*Nest #3* The tree in which this nest was located was really two big forks - about five feet from the ground the tree branched into two large trunks which gradually separated as they increased in height. At the top they were perhaps 20' apart (the trunks).

After descending the tree, we returned to the big nest on the side of the marsh which had appeared unoccupied earlier in the day. When we

arrived in the vicinity the adult female left the nest and circled around overhead. From this action and the fact that there had been eggs in the one nest examined we decided that this nest would also contain young and not eggs - we did not climb the tree, therefore.

Our plan is to return to these nests next year in time to procure eggs of the Bald Eagle and possibly those of the Great Horned Owl encountered.

We left the beach at 6:30 P.M. and arrived at the University about 11.

The weather during the whole time was ideal and enabled us to get some very good pictures.

\* \* \* \* \*

From this last trip and from the first one the following facts in regard to the nesting of Bald Eagles in this state seem apparent:

- 1.) The birds begin nesting about the second week in February and have laid their eggs before the last week of that month.
- 2.) It requires about 30 days for the incubation period.
- 3.) They prefer to nest in the heavily wooded areas and always select the tallest and most inaccessible, living pines in which to construct their nests.
- 4.) The food fed to the young consists entirely of fish - except of course, when food is so scarce or when an easy opportunity of procuring other prey presents itself.
- 5.) They are cowardly parents - possessing none - or very, very few of the ferocious habits of protecting their young as exhibited by so many Raptores.
- 6.) Only adult Bald Eagles (i.e., those in full plumage of the white head and tail) have



been observed nesting. All the nests discovered have been occupied by adult birds. Young Eagles in the plumage of the first and second year have been seen many times, but where they nest in Princess Anne Co. is at present a mystery. They may prefer to nest farther inland, but as yet no evidence of this has been found. Next year we hope to be able to visit the nests described in the two accounts earlier in the breeding season and to try to find where the younger birds nest.

(JFBC - 3/20/'38)

ADDENDUM (Following third Bald Eagle Trip to coast of Virginia - Feb. 19, 1939) Next  
Page

The above conclusions concerning these magnificent birds seem justified and correct except

- 1.) Nesting preparations probably begin in late January and egg laying by February 10-15; the latter being completed by the third week in Feb.

- 2.) There has never been any evidence seen by us that immature Bald Eagles breed. Only adults (characterized by the black body and wings and the white head and tail) have been observed nesting at any of the sites we visited.

- 3.) Mated pairs probably do so for life and unless severely disturbed, return and add to the same nest year after year.

- 4.) Our observations suggest that in addition to the last statement above, the breeding Eagles are definitely territorial - respecting each others nesting and hunting areas.

NAME- Bald Eagle A.O.U.NO.- 352  
(Haliaeetus leucocephalus)

DATE- March 19, 1938

NO.- 1

INCUBATION- Ready to hatch.

SIZE- 2.64 x 2.09

SITUATION- The large eyrie of this majestic bird was located in one fork of a living pine which branched about five feet from the ground thus giving rise to the two main trunks. The tree itself, was about 90' in height and this nest was about 20' from the top - or 70' from the ground.

The nest was supported against the trunk of the tree by three large limbs and was occupied by a pair of full grown birds. The nest contained two young, each of which could hardly have been over twenty-four hours old, and an egg which was ready to hatch. The nest had the following rough dimensions:

|                |      |              |                      |
|----------------|------|--------------|----------------------|
| outside height | - 4' | inside diam. | - 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' |
| extreme diam.  | - 5' | " depth      | - 6"                 |

The nesting materials consisted of heavy sticks, a few cornstalks, smaller sticks and heavy marsh grass as a lining. The nest had been used for the two or three years preceeding and was a prototype of an Osprey's nest, but much larger of course, both in its components and as a whole.

The parent birds circled high in the air most of the time we were in the vicinity of the nest and would scream every minute or so. They exhibited none of the ferocious habits which these birds are supposed to possess.

The tree containing the nest was located in very heavy pine woods the floor of which was covered by a heavy undergrowth of honeysuckle, briars, small trees and bushes. An arm of Little Creek surrounds the wooded area on three sides.  
(Princess Anne Co., Va.)



THIRD TRIP TO STUDY THE NESTING OF BALD EAGLES  
IN PRINCESS ANNE COUNTY, VIRGINIA - Feb. 19, 1939

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This account of our final trip to study the American Bald Eagle during its breeding season near the coast of Virginia describes the same area and the same nests - and probably the same adult birds we had encountered in 1937 and again in 1938. The latter possibility is reinforced by the finding of three eggs this year in the same nest in which we found two newly hatched chicks and an egg ready to hatch last year.

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Dad and I left Charlottesville about 4 AM and arrived at the old Kiwanis Camp described in detail in last year's account. We proceeded as before up the beach toward Little Creek to the first nest we visited in 1937 (see my map and Nest #1). Unfortunately, there was no sign whatsoever that the nest was being used, so we went on through the woods along the arm of land that juts out into Little Creek to Nests #2 & 3.

On arriving at Nest #2 where we had found the Great Horned Owls last year there was the same evidence around the tree that the Owls were in residence. So without delay I climbed the tree hoping we might obtain a clutch of eggs. At the nest I found two young Great Horned Owls obviously just a week and two weeks old, respectively. There was also the rear half of a cotton tail rabbit and the bones and several skulls of small mammals. The adult owls stayed in the vicinity all the time we were there uttering an occasional low call and moving about; but at no time did they come very close to the nest. I took several pictures and some notes then descended the tree.

Since Nest #3 was about one hundred yards away we moved cautiously and quietly toward it only to witness the adult female (white head and tail) glide off the nest and disappear. We saw her only once after that when I was at the nest taking notes and pictures. The huge, two-pronged

tree was not much easier to climb this time, although the many vines which presented such a hazard last year had not grown back sufficiently to be a problem. It was still a tough climb, but on pulling myself finally up onto the edge of the nest all my problems evaporated: For there to my delight were three perfect fresh eggs of the Bald Eagle! Needless to say, we were overjoyed to have such fantastic good fortune in our timing since it was obvious that had we arrived only a few days earlier, we might well have found only one egg in the huge nest!

The latter was little changed from last year. It was obvious that the birds had used the nest repeatedly and for this nesting season it seemed they had added only a few more sticks as well as some grasses and sod. The weather continued to be bright and clear and not too cold. From the nest I could see far out into Chesapeake Bay as well as the Little Creek Station to the south. I could only hope that these magnificent birds would return to lay another clutch of eggs and raise their family. After taking some notes and getting a picture of the nest and eggs by standing on a higher limb and "shooting" over my feet (the last exposure!), I came down the tree though I almost slipped once. I had passed the three eggs down to Dad after carefully wrapping them in cotton batting, tissue, and a small towel and placing them in my gas mask bag. Once on the ground I showed our treasure to Dad and he was almost as excited as I!

We drained the last water from the canteen, discussed our good fortune and then set out for the car. We had a very pleasant but uneventful trip back to the University, stopping near Richmond for supper and arriving about 8 PM.

See the last page of the  
Second Trip for Observations.

JFBC Feb. 20, 1939



## Miscellaneous

Migrating Birds,  
Nests with Young, etc.

(JAC) - May 7, 1936 -

American Woodcock - female  
and two young (half grown)  
marshy woods.  
Eastern Screech Owl - ad.  
(6 gray & 1 white)  
(two white) - 40 ft.  
large maple in deep woods.  
American Crow - four  
young (ready to leave nest)  
50' in pine in deep woods.  
Three young (one white)  
15' in pine in open field.

(Charlottesville, Va.)

June 16, 1936

Barn Owl - female - ad.  
young (3 wks. old) - old  
house in marsh on  
Parramore Is., Va.

Fish Hawk - male & female  
three young (4 wks. old)  
Parramore Is., Va.

June 25, 1936

Least Tern - male & female  
two young (3 days old)  
Cedar Is., Va.



Apr. 4, 1937 - Prince George  
County, Va.

Nest of Bald Eagle  
about 75' in living pine  
on edge of marsh in  
heavy woods. Contained  
two young about two  
and one wk. old. Nest  
supported by four  
forks. Composed of large  
sticks, few cypress, etc.,  
smaller sticks and  
lined with grass.

Dimensions: Length - 4'  
extreme diam. - 5'  
inside

depth - 8"  
About six half eaten  
fish in nest from length  
of 6" to about 15" -

Parents only circled  
high overhead screaming  
every few seconds -  
Both birds were full  
grown porporine the  
characteristic white head  
and tail -

1938

March 9 - U. Va.

Flock of Purple  
grackles and Red Winged  
Blackbirds - appx. 150

Two pairs of crows  
building nests

Red Tailed Hawk  
Two Tufted Titmice

March 19 Prince Georges  
Anne Co., Va.

Nest of Great Horned  
Owl on top of deserted  
Bald Eagle's nest. Con-  
tained two young about  
Two & one week old res-  
pectively - 55' in living  
pine in near woods.

Nest of Bald Eagle 70'  
in living pine in dense  
woods - contained two  
young less than 24 hrs.  
old & each of which still  
had its egg tooth - also  
contained three with  
28/30 embryos - (see account  
under eggs -)



March 28 - U. Va.

Female Woodcock  
flushed from leaf  
strewn area in growth  
of rather large poplars.  
After much careful  
search found four  
young about 2 days  
old. After leaving nest  
the female began  
those strange antics  
so characteristic of  
birds of this order  
exhibited when their  
nests are discovered.  
Young began to  
walk away each  
choosing an apparent  
different direction.  
They proceeded thro'  
the heavy leaves with  
difficulty and their  
walk reminded me  
so much of that of a  
tight-rope artist. Small  
wings held out and  
each step taken with  
apparent care and  
insight. Young covered  
with brown down -  
about size of newly hatched  
chicks.

April 14 - U. Va.

Chimney Swifts  
seen for first time  
this year. No nest  
building begun yet -  
Four Crow nests  
all containing eggs -  
All nests in hardy pine  
woods -

April 15 - U. Va.

House Wrens have  
at last returned - keep  
up their incessant  
twittering all day -

Saw Catbird first  
time this season



Sets collected in Va.  
to date - Apr. '35

| <u>NAME</u>          | <u>A.O.U.<br/>No.</u> | <u>DATE</u>   |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| HAWK, RED TAILED     | 337                   | APR. 21, 1932 |
| " , FISH (OSPREY)    | 364                   | MAY 13, 1934  |
| " , COOPER'S         | 333                   | " 3, 1936     |
| " , AMER. SPARROW    | 360                   | " 2, "        |
| OWL, GREAT HORNED    | 375                   | MAR. 2, 1934  |
| " , SCREECH (EAST.)  | 373                   | APR. 22, 1933 |
| VULTURE, BLACK       | 326                   | " 20, "       |
| " , TURKEY           | 325                   | " " "         |
| BITTERN, LEAST       | 191                   | JUNE 10, 1935 |
| SANDPIPER, SPOTTED   | 263                   | " 19, 1933    |
| KILLDEER             | 273                   | MAY 10, 1936  |
| BOB-WHITE            | 274                   | JULY 4, 1933  |
| DOVE, MOURNING       | 316                   | MAY 17, 1934  |
| CUCKOO, YELL. BILLED | 387                   | JUNE 6, 1933  |
| KINGFISHER, BELTED   | 390                   | APR. 23, 1932 |
| WOODPECKER, R. H.    | 406                   | MAY 21, 1933  |
| FLICKER, Y. S.       | 412                   | " 7, 1934     |
| CHUCK-WILLS-WIDOW    | 416                   | " 13, "       |
| WHIP-POOR-WILL       | 417                   | " 9, 1935     |
| HUMMINGBIRD, R. T.   | 428                   | JULY 6, 1935  |
| FLYCATCHER, CREST.   | 452                   | JUNE 3, 1936  |
| PHOEBE               | 456                   | APR. 30, 1934 |
| PEWEE, WOOD          | 461                   | JUNE 11, 1935 |
| JAY, BLUE            | 477                   | APR. 24, 1933 |
| CROW, AMERICAN       | 482                   | " 9, "        |
| COWBIRD              | 495                   | MAY 13, 1935  |
| BLACKBIRD, R. W.     | 498                   | " 12, 1933    |
| MEADOWLARK           | 501                   | JULY 21, 1934 |
| ORIOLE, BALTIMORE    | 507                   | JUNE 2, "     |

| <u>NAME</u>         | <u>A.O.U.<br/>No.</u> | <u>DATE</u>   |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| GRACKLE, PURPLE     | 511                   | MAY 7, 1934   |
| " , B. TAILED       | 513                   | " " "         |
| SPARROW, ENG.       |                       | APR. 15, 1932 |
| " , CHIP.           | 560                   | MAY 20, 1934  |
| " , FIELD           | 563                   | " 25, "       |
| " , SONG            | 581                   | " 28, "       |
| TOWHEE              | 587                   | MAY 4, 1933   |
| CARDINAL (GROSBEAK) | 593                   | " 17, 1934    |
| TANAGER, SCARLET    | 609                   | " 1, 1935     |
| " , SUMMER          | 610                   | " 20, 1935    |
| SWALLOW, R. WINGED  | 617                   | " 23, 1934    |
| VIREO, R. EYED      | 624                   | " 21, 1934    |
| " , W. "            | 631                   | " 12, "       |
| WARBLER, YELLOW     | 652                   | " 22, 1935    |
| " , M.Y. THROAT     | 671                   | " 10, "       |
| OVENBIRD            | 674                   | " 10, "       |
| WATER-THRUSH, L.A.  | 676                   | APR. 21, "    |
| CHAT, YELLOW BREAST | 683                   | MAY 31, 1932  |
| MOCKINGBIRD         | 700                   | " 23, 1933    |
| CATBIRD             | 704                   | " 23, 1934    |
| THRASHER, BROWN     | 705                   | APR. 22, 1933 |
| WREN, CAROLINA      | 712                   | JUNE 27, "    |
| " , HOUSE           | 721                   | MAY 27, 1934  |
| " , WINTER          | 722                   | JUNE 28, 1933 |
| CHICKADEE, CAROL.   | 736                   | MAY 7, 1934   |
| SNATCHER, E. G.     | 751                   | " 16, 1935    |
| THRUSH, WOOD        | 755                   | " 28, 1934    |
| ROBIN               | 761                   | " 2, "        |
| BLUEBIRD, E. T.     | 766                   | " 27, "       |



| <u>NAME</u>                     | <u>A.O.N.</u>  | <u>DATE</u>         |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| GULL, LAUGHING                  | 55             | JUNE 21, '36        |
| TERN, GULL-BILLED               | 60             | " "                 |
| " , COMMON                      | 70             | " "                 |
| SKIMMER, BLACK                  | 70             | " "                 |
| RAIL, CLAPPER                   | 541            | " 32, '36           |
| WILLET                          | 258            | " " "               |
| SWALLOW, BARN                   | 613            | " 24, '36           |
| <del>OYSTERCATCHER, AMER.</del> | <del>286</del> | <del>" 6, '36</del> |
| GOLDFINCH, AMER.                | 529            | JULY 30, '36        |
| EAGLE, BALD                     | 352            | Nov. 19, '38        |
| OYSTERCATCHER, AMER.            | 286            | JUNE 26, 1936       |
| WREN, WINTER                    | 722            | JUNE 22, 1933       |

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| A.O.<br>U.NO. | NAME                   | DATES            | SIZES      |
|---------------|------------------------|------------------|------------|
| 652           | Warbler, Yellow        | May 15- Jun. 15  | .65 x .50  |
| 654-A         | " , Cairn's            | Jun. 5- " 20     | .65 x .48  |
| 657           | " , Magnolia           | May 20- " 10     | .64 x .49  |
| 658           | " , Cerulean           | " 20- " 10       | .65 x .50  |
| 659           | " , Chesn. Sided       | " 20- " 5        | .66 x .52  |
| 662           | " , Blackburnian       | " 10- May 25     | .69 x .50  |
| 663           | " , Yel. Throat        | Apr. 5- Apr. 20  | .70 x .51  |
| 667           | " , Bla. Th. Green     | May 30- Jun. 15  | .64 x .50  |
| 671           | " , Pine               | Mar. 15- Apr. 10 | .68 x .52  |
| 673           | " , Prairie            | May 10- May 20   | .64 x .48  |
| 674           | Ovenbird               | " 5- " 25        | .80 x .60  |
| 676           | Water-Thrush, La.      | Apr. 25- " 10    | .76 x .61  |
| 677           | Warbler, Kentucky      | May 10- " 25     | .70 x .55  |
| 681           | Warbler, Md. Yel. Thr. | " 10- " 25       | .70 x .52  |
| 683           | Chat, Yellow Breasted  | " 15- Jun. 5     | .88 x .68  |
| 684           | Warbler, Hooded        | " 10- " 5        | .70 x .50  |
| 686           | " , Canada             | " 25- " 5        | .67 x .50  |
| 687           | Redstart, American     | " 20- " 10       | .57 x .45  |
| 703           | Mockingbird            | Apr. 25- " 10    | 1.00 x .72 |
| 704           | Catbird                | May 15- " 5      | .96 x .70  |
| 705           | Thrasher, Brown        | Apr. 20- May 15  | 1.05 x .80 |
| 718           | Wren, Carolina         | " 15- Jun. 15    | .74 x .58  |
| 719           | " , Bewick's           | May 10- May 31   | .66 x .52  |
| 721           | " , House              | Apr. 20- Jun. 25 | .65 x .52  |
| 722           | " , Winter             | May 10- " 5      | .65 x .50  |
| 725           | " , Long Billed Marsh  | " 15- " 30       | .64 x .48  |
| 726           | Creepers, Brown        | " 1- May 20      | .60 x .50  |
| 727           | Nuthatch, Wh. Breasted | Apr. 20- " 10    | .76 x .58  |
| 728           | " , R. "               | May 20- Jun. 10  | .62 x .52  |
| 729           | " , Br. Headed         | Mar. 10- Mar. 31 | .60 x .49  |
| 731           | Titmouse, Tufted       | Apr. 1- Apr. 20  | .74 x .54  |
| 736           | Chickadee, Carolina    | " 10- May 5      | .56 x .46  |
| 748           | Kinglet, Gold. Crowned | May 25- Jun. 15  | .55 x .45  |
| 751           | Gnatcatcher, Blue Gray | Apr. 25- May 15  | .56 x .46  |
| 755           | Thrush, Wood           | May 1- " 20      | 1.05 x .70 |
| 756           | Veery                  | " 15- Jun. 1     | .88 x .66  |
| 761           | Robin, American        | " 1- Jul. 5      | 1.16 x .80 |
| 766           | Bluebird, Eastern      | Apr. 1- May 30   | .82 x .61  |

| A.O.<br>U.NO. | NAME                   | DATES    |         | SIZES  |     |
|---------------|------------------------|----------|---------|--------|-----|
| 501           | Meadowlark             | May 1-   | May 31  | 1.10 x | .80 |
| 506           | Oriole, Orchard        | " 10-    | " 31    | .80 x  | .55 |
| 507           | " , Baltimore          | " 10-    | " 25    | .90 x  | .60 |
| 511           | Grackle, Purple        | Apr. 25- | " 10    | 1.10 x | .80 |
| 513           | " , Boat Tailed        |          |         | 1.25 x | .95 |
| 529           | Goldfinch, American    | Jul. 10- | Aug. 10 | .65 x  | .50 |
| 533           | Siskin, Pine           | May 27-  | Jun. 10 | .65 x  | .48 |
|               | Sparrow, English       | Apr. 20- | Aug. 31 | .85 x  | .71 |
| 540           | " , Vesper             | May 10-  | " 5     | .80 x  | .60 |
| 546           | " , Grasshopper        | " 10-    | May 31  | .72 x  | .55 |
| 547           | " , Henslow's          | " 30-    | Jun. 20 | .73 x  | .55 |
| 549           | " , Sharp Tailed       | " 15-    | May 20  | .75 x  | .55 |
| 550           | " , Seaside            | " 20-    | Jun. 10 | .77 x  | .56 |
| 560           | " , Chipping           | " 10-    | May 30  | .70 x  | .52 |
| 563           | " , Field              | " 1-     | Jun. 20 | .65 x  | .50 |
| 575-A         | " , Bachman's          | " 5-     | May 15  | .77 x  | .62 |
| 581           | " , Song               | " 5-     | Jun. 1  | .80 x  | .60 |
| 584           | " , Swamp              | " 25-    | " 10    | .75 x  | .55 |
| 567-E         | Junco, Carolina        | Apr. 25- | " 1     |        |     |
| 587           | Towhee                 | " 20-    | May 10  | .90 x  | .70 |
| 593           | Cardinal               | " 10-    | Jun. 1  | .99 x  | .69 |
| 595           | Grosbeak, R. Breasted  | May 25-  | " 10    | .98 x  | .68 |
| 597           | " , Blue               | " 31-    | " 20    | .85 x  | .65 |
| 598           | Bunting, Indigo        | " 27-    | " 12    | .75 x  | .52 |
| 608           | Tanager, Scarlet       | " 1-     | May 31  | .96 x  | .67 |
| 610           | " , Summer             | " 20-    | Jun. 10 | .92 x  | .64 |
| 611           | Martin, Purple         | " 13-    | May 31  | .95 x  | .65 |
| 612           | Swallow, Cliff         | Apr. 25- | " 10    | .80 x  | .55 |
| 613           | " , Barn               | May 1-   | " 20    | .80 x  | .55 |
| 614           | " , Tree               | " 20-    | " 30    | .75 x  | .50 |
| 616           | " , Bank               | " 1-     | " 10    | .70 x  | .49 |
| 617           | " , Rou. Winged        | " 1-     | " 15    | .75 x  | .52 |
| 619           | Waxwing, Cedar         | Jun. 15- | Jun. 25 | .85 x  | .60 |
| 622-E         | Shrike, Migrant        | Apr. 20- | May 10  | .99 x  | .71 |
| 624           | Vireo, Red Eyed        | May 15-  | " 30    | .85 x  | .55 |
| 627           | " , Warbling           | " 15-    | " 30    | .70 x  | .50 |
| 628           | " , Yel. Throated      | Apr. 25- | " 10    | .78 x  | .58 |
| 631           | " , White Eyed         | May 20-  | Jun. 15 | .75 x  | .55 |
| 636           | Warbler, Black & White | " 10-    | May 25  | .64 x  | .52 |
| 637           | " , Prothonotory       | " 10-    | " 20    | .72 x  | .55 |
| 638           | " , Swainson's         | " 25-    | Jun. 10 | .76 x  | .58 |
| 639           | " , Worm Eating        | " 12-    | May 20  | .66 x  | .50 |
| 640           | " , Bachman's          | " 10-    | " 25    | .61 x  | .46 |
| 641           | " , Blue Winged        | " 10-    | " 25    | .65 x  | .50 |
| 642           | " , Green              | " 15-    | Jun. 10 |        |     |
| 648           | " , Parula             | " 10-    | " 10    | .66 x  | .45 |



| A.O.<br>J.NO. | NAME                    | DATES          | SIZES       |
|---------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| 333           | Hawk, Cooper's          | May 10- May 20 | 1.90 x 1.45 |
| 37            | " , Red Tailed          | Apr.10- Apr.20 | 2.35 x 1.80 |
| 39            | " , " Shouldered        | " 1- " 20      | 2.15 x 1.75 |
| 43            | " , Broad Winged        | May 5- May 20  | 1.90 x 1.55 |
| 49            | Eagle, Golden           | Mar.20- Apr.10 | 2.85 x 2.48 |
| 52            | " , Bald                | Feb.15- Mar.10 | 2.75 x 2.10 |
| 56            | -AHawk, Duck            | Apr.20- May 10 | 2.10 x 1.62 |
| 60            | Hawk, Sparrow           | May 1- " 20    | 1.44 x 1.12 |
| 64            | Osprey, (Fish Hawk)     | " 1- " 20      | 2.40 x 1.80 |
| 65            | Owl, Amer. Barn         | Mar.20- Apr.20 | 1.70 x 1.30 |
| 66            | " , Long Eared          | " 25- " 5      | 1.55 x 1.35 |
| 67            | " , Short Eared         | May 5- May 20  | 1.55 x 1.25 |
| 68            | " , Barred              | Mar.20- Apr.15 | 1.95 x 1.65 |
| 73            | " , Screech             | Apr. 9- " 20   | 1.35 x 1.20 |
| 75            | " , Great Horned        | Jan.25- Feb.20 | 2.25 x 1.85 |
| 87            | Cuckoo, Yellow Billed   | May 5- May 20  | 1.20 x .90  |
| 88            | " , Black "             | " 5- " 20      | 1.08 x .84  |
| 90            | Kingfisher, Belted      | Apr.25- " 10   | 1.35 x 1.05 |
| 93            | -BWoodpecker, S. Hairy  | " 10- Apr.15   | .95 x .70   |
| 94            | " , " Downy             | " 10- " 25     | .75 x .60   |
| 94-C          | " , Downy               | " 10- " 25     | .75 x .60   |
| 95            | Woodpecker, R. Cockated | Apr.25- May 15 | .95 x .70   |
| 402           | Sapsucker, Y. Bellied   | " 25- " 5      | .86 x .62   |
| 405           | Woodpecker, Pileated    | " 25- " 10     | 1.30 x 1.00 |
| 406           | " , R. Headed           | May 25- Jun.15 | 1.00 x .75  |
| 409           | " , " Bellied           | " 1- May 20    | 1.02 x .76  |
| 412           | Flicker                 | " 1- " 20      | 1.10 x .90  |
| 416           | Chuck-Will's-Widow      | " 10- " 25     | 1.40 x 1.00 |
| 417           | Whip-Poor-Will          | May 10- " 20   | 1.50 x .85  |
| 420           | Nighthawk               | " 27- Jun. 5   | 1.20 x .85  |
| 423           | Swift, Chimney          | " 27- " 10     | .75 x .50   |
| 428           | Hummingbird, R. Throat  | " 20- " 15     | .50 x .35   |
| 444           | Kingbird                | Jun.15- Jul.10 | .95 x .70   |
| 452           | Flycatcher, Crested     | May 20- Jun.15 | .85 x .65   |
| 456           | Phoebe                  | " 4- May 20    | .75 x .55   |
| 459           | Flycatcher, Ol. Sided   | Jun. 1- Jun.10 | .83 x .62   |
| 461           | Pewee, Wood             | " 5- " 20      | .80 x .55   |
| 463           | Flycatcher, Y. Bellied  |                | .66 x .50   |
| 465           | " , Acadian             | May 31- Jun. 5 | .75 x .55   |
| 467           | " , Least               | " 25- " 10     | .64 x .51   |
| 477           | Jay, Blue               | Apr.20- May 10 | 1.10 x .80  |
| 486           | -ARaven                 | " 10- " 1      | 1.90 x 1.30 |
| 488           | Crow, American          | Mar.25- " 6    | 1.60 x 1.15 |
| 490           | " , Fish                | May 4- " 20    | 1.45 x 1.05 |
| 495           | Cowbird                 | " 15- Jun. 5   | .85 x .64   |
| 498           | Blackbird, Red Winged   | " 1- May 20    | 1.00 x .70  |

# AVERAGE SIZES AND DATES WHEN FRESH EGGS

A.O. MAY BE OBTAINED IN THE STATE OF VIRGINIA

| U. NO. | NAME                 | DATES             | SIZES       |
|--------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 58     | Gull, Laughing       | June 3 - July 20  | 2.25 x 1.60 |
| 63     | Tern, Gull-Billed    | " 16 - " 1        | 1.80 x 1.30 |
| 64     | " , Caspian          | July 5 - Aug. 1   | 2.70 x 1.75 |
| 65     | " , Royal            | " 1 - " 1         | 2.60 x 1.70 |
| 67     | " , Cabot's          | " 3 - " 1         | 2.12 x 1.42 |
| 69     | " , Forester's       | May 25 - June 15  | 1.80 x 1.30 |
| 70     | " , Common           | " 20 - July 7     | 1.80 x 1.30 |
| 74     | " , Least            | June 10 - July 1  | 1.25 x .95  |
| 80     | Skimmer, Black       | " 20 - " 20       | 1.75 x 1.30 |
| 132    | Mallard              | Apr. 10 - Apr. 15 | 2.25 x 1.25 |
| 133    | Duck, Black          | " 20 - May 5      | 2.30 x 1.70 |
| 143    | " , Pintail          | May 1 - " 20      | 2.20 x 1.50 |
| 144    | " , Wood             | Apr. 1 - Apr. 20  | 2.05 x 1.50 |
| 172    | Goose, Canada        | May and June      | 3.50 x 2.50 |
| 180    | Swan, Whistling      | " and "           | 4.00 x 2.75 |
| 190    | Bittern              | " 5 - May 15      | 1.95 x 1.50 |
| 191    | " , Least            | June 5 - June 10  | 1.20 x .90  |
| 194    | Heron, Great Blue    | Apr. 20 - " 15    | 2.45 x 1.45 |
| 196    | Egret                | May 15 - " 1      | 2.30 x 1.45 |
| 197    | " , Snowy            | " 15 - " 1        | 1.80 x 1.20 |
| 200    | Heron, Little Blue   | " 1 - " 20        | 1.65 x 1.30 |
| 201    | " , Green            | Apr. 22 - " 15    | 1.48 x 1.12 |
| 202    | " , B.C. Night       | " 10 - Apr. 20    | 2.00 x 1.40 |
| 208    | Rail, King           | May 20 - June 1   | 1.60 x 1.20 |
| 211    | " , Clapper          | Apr. 27 - " 1     | 1.70 x 1.20 |
| 212    | " , Virginia         | May 20 - " 5      | 1.20 x .90  |
| 216    | " , Black            | June 1 - " 20     | 1.06 x .65  |
| 219    | Gallinule, Florida   | May 20 - June 20  | 1.65 x 1.15 |
| 228    | Woodcock, American   | Mar. 1 - Mar. 25  | 1.50 x 1.14 |
| 258    | Willet               | May 17 - May 25   | 2.10 x 1.60 |
| 261    | Plover, Upland       | June 1 - June 20  | 1.73 x 1.23 |
| 263    | Sandpiper, Spotted   | " 1 - " 10        | 1.35 x .90  |
| 273    | Killdeer             | May 20 - " 1      | 1.52 x 1.12 |
| 277    | Plover, Piping       | June 25 - July 1  | 1.25 x 1.00 |
| 280    | " , Wilson's         | May 12 - June 10  | 1.40 x 1.05 |
| 286    | Oystercatcher, Amer. | " 10 - May 25     | 2.20 x 1.50 |
| 289    | Bob-white or Quail   | " 15 - Aug. 1     | 1.20 x .95  |
|        | Pheasant, R. Necked  | " 10 - June 1     | 1.52 x 1.32 |
| 300    | Grouse, Ruffed       | " 10 - " 1        | 1.58 x 1.18 |
| 301    | A Turkey, Wild       | Apr. 10 - May 1   | 2.65 x 2.00 |
| 316    | Dove, Mourning       | " 10 - June 15    | 1.15 x .80  |
| 325    | Vulture, Turkey      | " 10 - May 1      | 2.75 x 1.90 |
| 326    | " , Black            | " 20 - " 15       | 2.99 x 1.99 |
| 331    | Hawk, Marsh          | May 1 - " 20      | 1.80 x 1.40 |
| 332    | " , Sharp Shinned    | " 10 - June 1     | 1.45 x 1.15 |



LITTLE  
CREEK  
LIGHT

# CHESAPEAKE BAY

MAP SHOWING  
NESTS OF  
BALD EAGLE  
NEAR LITTLE  
CREEK, VA.

1907-1908

1939

CHESAPEAKE  
BEACH

BEACH

SAND

LAKE

WATER

FIELD

LITTLE  
CREEK

No. 3

No. 2

WOODS

No. 1

MARSH

WOODS

WATER

LITTLE  
CREEK  
STATION

WOODS

MARSH

WOODS

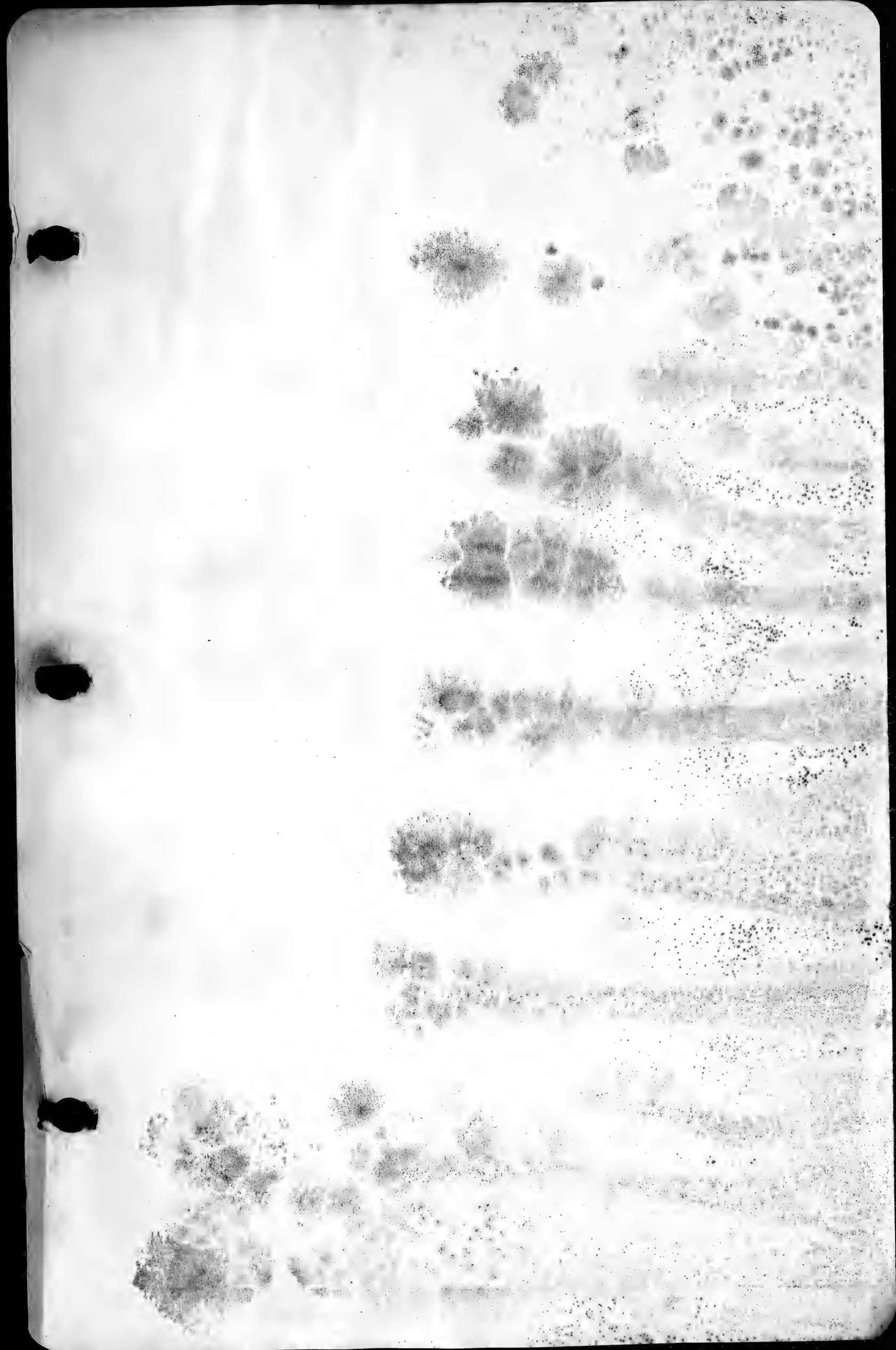
MARSH

TO VA. BEACH

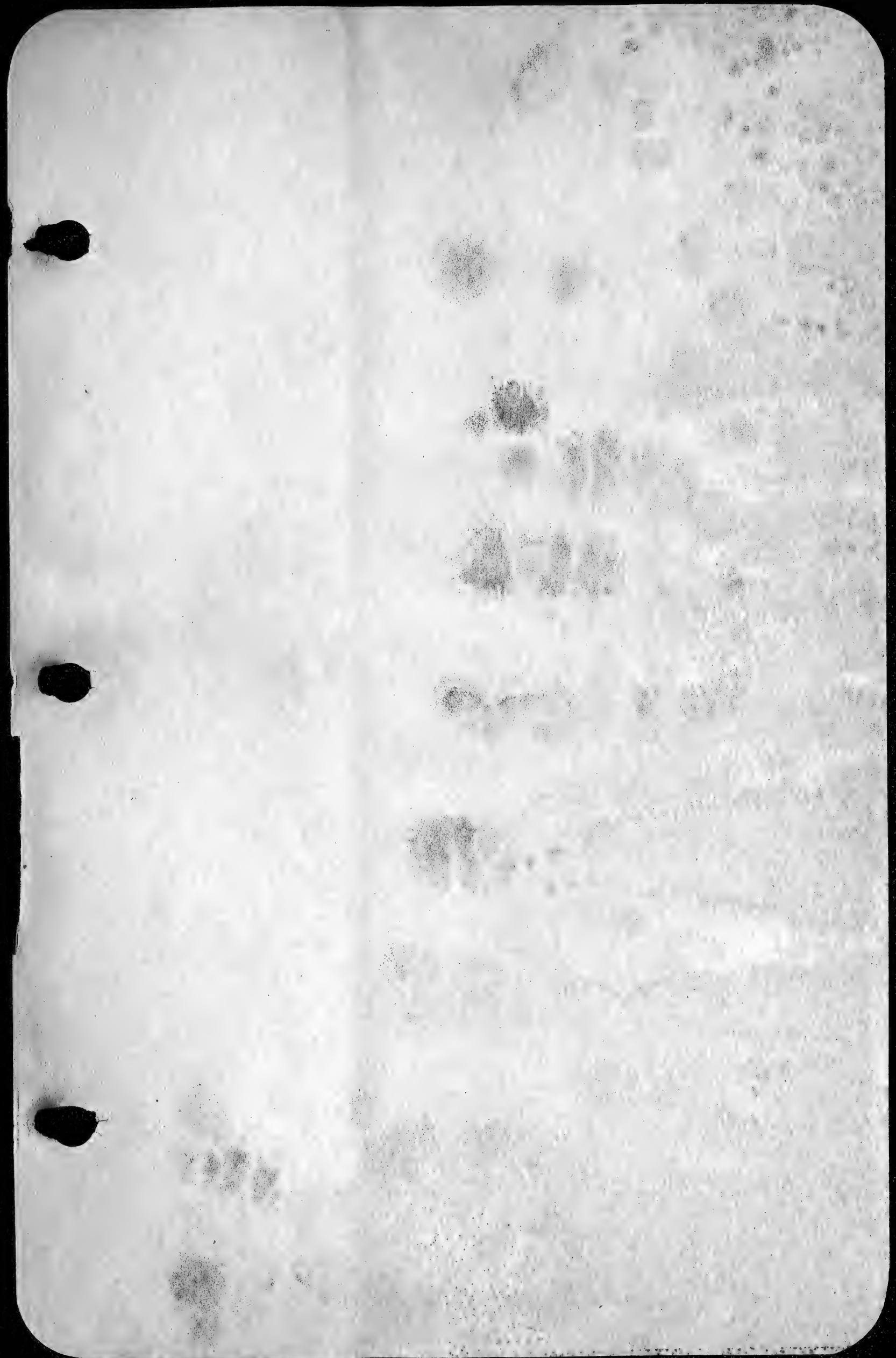
SMITH LAKE

WOODS

NORFOLK







NAME- Laughing Gull  
(*Larus stricilla*)

A.O.U. No.- 58

DATE- June 22, 1936

EGG- X 3

INCUBATION- 1/3

SIZES- 2.19 x 1.58      2.10 x 1.54  
2.06 x 1.56

SITUATION- Early one morning while cruising around in a marsh near Wachapreague, Va., I noticed quite a number of these birds lighting in the marsh grass. Being very eager to obtain eggs of this species, I decided to investigate. I maneuvered the boat up a small creek which drained the marsh and landed. As soon as I set foot on the soft mud hundreds of these gulls immediately took to the air and began circling over my head, screaming and cawing.

There were at least three or four hundred nests on the marsh, which covered about two sq. miles. There was a small fresh-water lake in the marsh containing many small islands. The gulls preferred to nest on these little islands since each one was covered with marsh grass which the birds had carried there to build their nests with and there were as many nests on each of these islands as there could possibly be. This particular set of eggs was taken from one of the nests on one of the little islands.

The materials in the nests consisted entirely of dead marsh grass and it was piled up in most of the nests to approximately 10"-some of the nests, however, were as high as 14" while others were only four or five inches high. This particular set of eggs was taken from a nest about 12" high, 11" in diameter at the base and about 2" deep.



NAME- Gull-billed Tern A.O.U. NO.- 63  
(Gelochelidon nilotica) \*\*

DATE- June 26, 1936

NO.- 3

INCUBATION- Ready to hatch

SIZES- 1.63 x 1.25 1.64 x 1.22  
1.64 x 1.20

SITUATION- This species along with the Common Terns, nested in the same vicinity as did the Black Skimmers on Parramore Island, Va. The Common Terns nested within a few inches of the Black Skimmers- the Gull-billed Terns however, preferred to be less sociable and nested just above high-water mark. This set of eggs was taken from a nest in the sand near a small sand dune about 20' from flood-tide mark. No other nests of any species of bird was within 50 yds. of this nest.

Near Wachapreague, Va.

\*\* (Sterna nilotica) A.O.U. Checklist 1983

NAME- Common Tern  
(Sterna hirundo)

A.O.U. NO. - 70

DATE- June 26, 1936

NO. - 3

INCUBATION-  $\frac{1}{2}$

|               |             |             |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>SIZES-</u> | 1.65 x 1.20 | 1.74 x 1.24 |
|               |             | 1.63 x 1.24 |

SITUATION- This set of eggs was taken from a nest on top of a very small sand dune on Farramore Is., Va. The nest of a Black Skimmer was about 12" away at the base of the sand dune. The Terns along with the Skimmers kept flying overhead uttering their strange "car-r" every few seconds. Quite often the birds would dive at my head in an effort to drive me away from their nests.

There were no nesting materials at all - a mere hollow in the sand served as the nest.

Near Wachapreague, Va.



NAME- Black Skimmer A.O.U. NO.- 80  
(*Rynchops nigra*) \*\*

DATE- June 24, 1936

NO.- 2

INCUBATION- Fresh

SIZES- 2.00 x 1.26  
2.00 x 1.25

SITUATION- Toward the northern end of Parra-more Island, Va., the beach slopes very gradually down to the water. On this wide expanse of sand and sea shells a colony of these graceful birds chose ~~x~~ to nest. As I came down the beach, I noticed the huge number of birds on the sand. When I had approached within a hundred yards the whole colony took to flight. I then realized how many birds there really ~~were~~ were in that group. As I walked on and finally reached where the nearest of the birds had been on the sand, I was astounded at the number of nests. A conservative estimate of their number would be 800- the total colony covered about half a mile along the beach.

The birds kept flying about squacking all the time- many of them acted as though they ~~were~~ were hurt in order to try and draw me away from the nests.

Practically all the nests contained eggs- a few contained young about a week old. There were no nesting materials at all- a mere hollow in the sand constituting the entire nest.

There were two small colonies toward the southern end of the island.

Most of the nests contained two eggs very few contained four which was the greatest number in any nest. Of the nests which contained young, the majority had only two young.

Near Wachapraegue, Va.

\*\*(Rynchops niger) A.O.U. Checklist 1983

NAME- Least Bittern  
(Ixobrychus Exilis)

A.O.U.NO.- 191

DATE- June 10, 1935

NO. IN CLUTCH- 3

INCUBATION-  $\frac{1}{2}$

SIZES- 1.20 x 0.90  
1.19 x 0.91

1.21 x 0.89

SITUATION- The nest of this little heron was neatly and cleverly concealed among cattail rushes which were bent over and intertwined with dead rushes to form a slightly depressed center for the three pale blueish green eggs. The nest was suspended about two feet above the water in a brackish marsh just west of Virginia Beach, Va.

The female bittern tried to sneak away as I cautiously and quietly approached her nest, but I got a good look at her before she disappeared in the tall rushes.



NAME- Clapper Rail A.O.U. NO.- 211  
(Rallus crepitans) \*\*

DATE- June 22, 1936

NO.- 10

INCUBATION- Ready to hatch

SIZES- SEE BELOW

SITUATION- The nest of this bird was located in a salt water marsh near Vachapreague, Va. It was cleverly concealed in the long marsh grass and consisted of long grasses interwoven with the long marsh grass which held it a few inches above the ground. The female ran off the nest and went about twenty-five feet before flying. Instead of lighting a short distance away, she flew out of sight across the marsh.

|               |             |             |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>SIZES-</u> | 1.63 x 1.18 |             |
|               | 1.58 x 1.18 | 1.65 x 1.17 |
|               | 1.62 x 1.17 | 1.56 x 1.17 |
|               | 1.63 x 1.18 | 1.60 x 1.18 |
|               | 1.58 x 1.17 | 1.63 x 1.19 |
|               | 1.59 x 1.17 |             |

\*\* (Rallus longirostris) A.O.U. Checklist 1983

NAME- Willet A.O.U. NO.- 258  
 (Cataphoporous semipalmatus) \*\*  
DATE- June 22, 1938

NO.- 4

INCUBATION- Fresh

SIZES- 2.14 x 1.46 2.01 x 1.41  
 2.01 x 1.43 2.03 x 1.47

SITUATION- Two nests of this bird were found on the islands in the salt-water marsh where the Laughing Gulls nests were found. This particular set of eggs was taken from a nest about 6" from the water and about a foot from a gull's nest. The bird flew from the nest when I approached within a few feet. The nest was quite cleverly concealed - it was composed of grasses interlined with the long marsh grass which hung over the nest hiding it very well.

After the female left the nest she flew around the small pond in the marsh uttering a continuous series of noises. She would not approach very close to me as so many of birds do when their nests are discovered.

The marsh is located about a mile and a half from Wachapreague, Va.

\*\*(Catoptrophorus semipalmatus)

A.O.U. Checklist  
 1983



NAME- Spotted Sandpiper  
(Actitis macularia)

A.O.U. NO.- 263

DATE- June 19, 1933

NO.- 4

INCUBATION- Fresh

SIZES- 1.19 x .91      1.24 x .92  
          1.20 x .91      1.19 x .92

SITUATION- On an island in Powell's River, which is frequently flooded after several days of hard rain three pairs of these birds nested in 1933. This particular set of eggs was taken from a nest on the upper part of the island. The nest was placed beside a river rock at the base of a small bush and was very well camouflaged since the few grasses in the nest and the eggs were the same dark, clay color as the river rocks.

This bird, as is quite characteristic of members of this order, fluttered and wobbled along on the ground in an effort to draw me away from the nest.

Big Stone Gap, Va.

NAME- Killdeer

(Oxyechus vociferus) \*\*

A.O.U.

DATE- May 10, 1936

NO.- 275

NO.- 4

INCUBATION- Fresh

SIZES- 1.51 x 1.04 1.46 x 1.03  
1.52 x 1.03 1.52 x 1.05

SITUATION- The nest was located on a hillside about 100 yds. from a small stream. The female was flushed from the nest and performed those strange antics so common to birds of this family-~~order~~ in an effort to draw us away from the nest.

The nest itself was a mere depression in the ground beside a stone in sage grass. The nesting materials consisted of only a few weeds and grasses. Had not the bird moved from the nest it would never have been discovered since it was well hidden and corresponded so well with its surroundings. The nest was about half-way up the hill and approximately a mile and a half from Charlottesville, Va.

(JFBC)

\*\* (Charadrius vociferus) A.O.U. Checklist

1983

NAME- American Oystercatcher A.O.U.NO.286  
(Haematopus palliatus)

DATE- June 26, 1936 NO. IN CLUTCH- 2

INCUBATION- 2/3

SIZES- 2.15 x 1.49 2.14 x 1.52

SITUATION- This rather unusual and solitary bird was spotted by mewell above high tide level on the northern end of Parramore Island where I had noticed many terns and Black Skimmers. As I watched it moved to one end of a small sand dune and settled down on what proved to be its nest. The latter contained no nesting materials of any kind nor were there any other nests that I could find in that whole section of beach.

The two buff colored eggs were irregularly spotted and blotched with light and dark brown. The female flew a few hundred feet down near the waters edge and made no attempt to return to her nest until I had walked quite a distance down the beach away from her and the nest.

Near Wachapraegue, Va.



NAME- Bob-white or Quail A.O.U.NO.- 289  
(*Colinus virginianus*) \*\*

DATE- July 4, 1933

NO.- 14

INCUBATION-  $\frac{1}{2}$

|               |            |            |
|---------------|------------|------------|
| <u>SIZES-</u> | 1.24 x .97 | 1.20 x .96 |
|               | 1.25 x .96 | 1.24 x .96 |
|               | 1.21 x .94 | 1.24 x .96 |
|               | 1.21 x .96 | 1.21 x .95 |
|               | 1.26 x .95 | 1.23 x .95 |
|               | 1.25 x .96 | 1.24 x .98 |
|               | 1.24 x .97 | 1.22 x .96 |

SITUATION- The nest of this species was located in a blackberry patch on a hillside near an apple orchard. The female was flushed from the nest when I was within a few feet. The nest was well concealed since it was arched over and was composed of the same grass in which it was placed-also, it was situated in a clump of grass in the thickest part of the blackberry patch.

Gibson's Farm - four miles from  
Big Stone Gap, Va.

\*\* Although the A.O.U. Checklist of 1983 is very definite in referring to *C. virginianus* as "Northern Bobwhite" I feel very strongly that this set of eggs in 1933 most surely belong to the smaller species (or super-species) Common Bobwhite - also known throughout the South as "Southern Quail"

NAME- Mourning Dove A.O.U.NO.- 316  
(Zenaidura macroura) \*\*

DATE- May 17, 1934

NO.- 2

INCUBATION- Fresh

SIZES- 1.05 x .80  
1.09 x .78

SITUATION- I discovered this nest when the bird flushed from the nest - she flew from it when I was directly under the limb on which it was placed. The nest was situated on a horizontal limb of a large Pine tree in fairly deep woods at an elevation of approximately 12' and it was about 7' from the trunk of the tree. The two white eggs were discernible through the flimsy structure of the nest, which consisted of small twigs and a few grasses.

Lynchburg, Va.

\*\* (Zenaida macroura) A.O.U. Checklist 1983

NAME- Turkey Vulture A.O.U.NO.- 325  
 (Cathartes aura septentrionalis) \*\*  
DATE- April 23, 1933

NO.- 2

INCUBATION- Fresh

SIZES- 2.75 x 1.95  
 2.79 x 1.96

SITUATION- The birds are rather scarce in the extreme ~~po~~ west portion of Southwest Va. where this set of eggs was taken. The only places suitable for nesting are crevices and small "caves" in the rocks near the tops of the mountains. The nest which contained this particular set of eggs was situated in a "cave" in the rocks near the top of Stone Mt. about four miles from Big Stone Gap, Va. The hole in the rocks had approximately the following measurements: width, 10'; length, 20' and height 5'. Toward the farther end the roof sloped down to about 2½ or 3' - at this end, some leaves had fallen down onto the floor of the "cave" thro' a small opening. On these leaves the female Turkey Buzzard had laid her eggs.

I happened to be 'possum hunting when I found the nest. When we entered the hole the bird was on the nest and instead of trying to escape she lowered her head and began to vomit - the odor was ~~unbearable~~ unbearable so we decided to wait until dawn to get the eggs hoping the bird would have left the nest by that time. At dawn we did return and secured the eggs the female having left the nest.

\*\* (Cathartes aura) A.O.U. Checklist 1983



NAME- Black Vulture A.O.U.NO.-326  
(Catharista uruba uruba) \*\*

DATE- April 23, 1933

NO.- 2

INCUBATION - Fresh

SIZES- 2.98 x 2.05  
3.06 x 2.04

SITUATION- This set of eggs was obtained on the same day that I found the eggs of a Turkey Vulture. The nest was located in a rock cavity near the top of Stone Mt. about four miles from Big Stone Gap, Va. Although these birds are rather rare in that part of the state, I identified this bird positively as a Black Vulture since we caught the female on the nest.

The cavity in the rocks was approx. 6' wide, 10' long and 4' high. There were no nesting materials at all - the eggs were laid on the bare ground at the end of the cavity. The eggs of this set are among the prettiest bird eggs I have ever seen.

\*\* (Coragyps atratus) A.O.U. Checklist 1983

NAME- Cooper's Hawk  
(Accipiter cooperi)

[333]

DATE- May 3, 1936

NO.- 4

INCUBATION- Fresh

SIZES- 1.94 x 1.47      1.85 x 1.50  
          1.88 x 1.50      1.93 x 1.47

SITUATION- The nest was located in a 50 ft. pine and was about 40 ft. from the ground. The nest looked like it was a couple of years old- and the birds had added to it each year. It was composed throughout of small sticks and twigs and was lined with pieces of pine bark. The nest was about 18 in. wide, a foot in height and about 3 in. in depth. The pine tree was located in deep woods, about two miles from Charlottesville, Va.

(JFBC)

NAME- American Red-Tailed Hawk A.O.U.  
(*Buteo borealis borealis*) \*\* NO.-337  
DATE- April 21, 1932

NO.- 1

INCUBATION-  $\frac{3}{4}$

SIZE- 2.33 x 1.86

SITUATION- This hawk built its nest on a rock ledge on the ~~T~~ top of Stone Mt. near Big Stone Gap, Va. The nest was composed of small sticks and pieces of bark on the inside, while the greater part was constructed of large sticks. The female left the nest when she saw me about 50 yds. away and started circling over me screaming every few seconds. She made two or three dives at me, but she did not come very close.

The nest contained one egg and a young bird about a day old.

\*\* (Red-Tailed Hawk - *Buteo jamaicensis*)

A.O.U. Checklist 1983



NAME- American Bald Eagle \*\* A.O.U. NO.-352  
(Haliaeetus Leucocephalus)

DATE- February 19, 1939

NO.- 3

\*\* (Bald Eagle)  
A.O.U. Checklist 1983

INCUBATION- Fresh

SIZES- 2.77 x 2.07  
2.74 x 2.09 2.76 x 2.06

SITUATION- The large eyrie of this majestic bird was located in one fork of a huge living pine which branched about five feet from the ~~gr~~ ground thus giving rise to the two, almost equal trunks. The tree was about 90' in height and the nest was about 20' from the top.

The nest was supported against the trunk of the tree by three large limbs and was occupied by mature birds. The nest contained three fresh dirty white eggs. Its dimensions were roughly as follows

outside height - 4' average diameter - 5'  
inside depth - 6-8" inside diameter - 1½'

The nesting materials consisted of heavy sticks, a few cornstalks, smaller sticks and heavy and finer grasses with some clumps of sod for the lining. Obviously it had been used and repaired for several years and was similar to that of an Osprey, tho' larger as a whole as well as in its components.

The parent birds made no attempt to challenge me while I was in their tree and in fact, were seen only once or twice circling high overhead occasionally uttering their familiar cry.

The tree containing this Eagle's nest was located in very heavy pine woods the floor of which was covered by a dense undergrowth of honeysuckle, briars, small trees and bushes. An arm of Little Creek surrounds the area on three sides. Finally, this nest is Nest #3 in the account of Bald Eagle trips described elsewhere in this notebook.

NAME- American Sparrow Hawk \*\* [360]  
(Falco sparverius sparverius)

DATE- May 2, 1936

NO.- 5

INCUBATION - Fresh

SIZES- 1.50 X 1.15 1.35 X 1.10 1.48 X 1.12  
1.41 X 1.11 1.39 X 1.09

SITUATION- ~~Thames~~ The nest was located in an old Flicker hole in a large, half-dead locust tree on the Farmington Golf Course about three miles from Charlottesville, Va.

No nest materials were present- only some old chips of wood which were left there when the hole was made. The entrance to the nest was about 15 ft. from the ground and about 2 ft. from the top of the snag. The actual cavity of the nest was approximately 10 in. deep and the diameter was uniformly about 8 in.

The female was caught on the nest and ~~far~~ from her appearance and from the variations in the sizes of the eggs, she seemed to have been a last year's bird. The male, however, seemed to be at least three years old.

(JFBC)

\*\* (American Kestrel - Falco sparverius)

A.O.U. Checklist 1983

NAME- American Osprey or Fish Hawk \*\*  
(Pandion haliaetus carolinensis)  
DATE- May 13, 1934 A.O.U.NO.- 364

NO.- 3

INCUBATION-  $\frac{1}{2}$

SIZES- 2.35 x 1.77 2.40 x 1.78  
2.40 x 1.79

SITUATION- Along the shores of the many indentations of Lynnhaven Bay are many large Pines. The shores are heavily wooded in most places and the huge Pines stand out quite prominently - Some of these large trees are dead and though many Fish Hawks nest in the living Pines they prefer the dead ones in which to build their nests. This set of eggs was taken from a dead Pine which was about 60 or 70' high. The nest was supported by a three-pronged fork and was about 10' from the top of the tree. (Most of the nests observed were in or very near the tops of the trees). Both adult birds kept up a continuous noise, circling around the nest all the time I was near it. The nesting materials consisted large sticks, corn stalks and rubbish and was lined with seaweed. The approximate dimensions of the nest are as follows: width, 3' ; ~~length~~ outside depth or height, 4' and inside depth, 8" - the diameter was, roughly, 1'. The nest was at least two years old.

Lynnhaven Bay, Va.

\*\* (Osprey - Pandion haliaetus)

A.O.U. Checklist 1983



NAME- Eastern Screech Owl      A.O.U.NO.- 373  
(Otus asio asio) \*\*  
DATE- April 22, 1933  
NO.- 3

INCUBATION- Ready to hatch

SIZES- 1.39 x 1.19      1.39 x 1.20  
1.37 x 1.19

SITUATION- This set of eggs was taken from a hole in a Beech. The hole was a natural cavity and had been used by Flickers - The female owl was on the nest and was of the red type. I was surprised to find only three eggs in the nest - I had found the nets a week before when it contained only three eggs, but I decided to wait until a full set had been laid before taking them. When I took the eggs I could hear the embryos in them. The female did not stay near the nest, but flew off as though ~~indiff~~ indifferent as to the fate of her eggs.

Big Stone Gap, Va.

\*\* (Otus asio)      A.O.U. Checklist 1983

NAME- Yellow-billed Cuckoo A.O.U.NO. 387  
(Coccyzus americanus)

DATE- June 6, 1933 NO. IN CLUTCH- 3

INCUBATION- Fresh

1.18 x 0.93

SIZES- 1.17 x 0.91 1.19 x 0.90

SITUATION- This nest was found in a small grove of Paw Paw trees, not far from the edge of fairly heavy woods. The bird had selected the tallest tree and had built her nest in the uppermost branches on a network of tangled grapevines. It was really a shabby platform of twigs on which were three light greenish blue, fresh eggs. I do not understand why the eggs did not roll off, because there weren't more than fourteen sticks at the most, supporting them. The female was on the nest so I had a good look at her before she flushed and the yellow bill was clearly visible. The nest was only about ten feet from the ground.

Gibson's Farm  
Big Stone Gap, Va.

NAME- Belted Kingfisher A.O.U.NO. 390  
(Megaceryle alcyon)\*\*

DATE- April 25, 1932 NO. IN CLUTCH- 6

INCUBATION- Fresh

|               |             |             |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|
|               | 1.32 x 1.02 | 1.34 x 1.02 |
| <u>SIZES-</u> | 1.33 x 1.05 | 1.35 x 1.05 |
|               | 1.33 x 1.04 | 1.35 x 1.04 |

SITUATION- The entrance to this nest was located about five feet up the slightly sloping face of a clay bank and about four feet from the top of the bank above Powell's River within the town limits of Big Stone Gap, Va. There is also at that particular point a deep hole in the River known locally as "The Horsehole". The opening to the Kingfisher's burrow was about 4" in diameter and the tunnel to the nest went straight back horizontally for about three feet where it terminated in a chamber estimated to be about 10" in diameter and 6" high.

The only nesting materials consisted of a few dried grasses in which were placed the six fresh, globular, pearly white eggs.

\*\* (Ceryle alcyon) A.O.U. Checklist 1983



NAME- Red-headed Woodpecker A.O.U.NO.406  
(*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*)

DATE- May 21, 1933

NO.- 5

INCUBATION- Fresh

|               |             |             |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|
|               | 0.99 x 0.75 | 0.97 x 0.76 |
| <u>SIZES-</u> | 0.98 x 0.76 | 0.96 x 0.75 |
|               | 0.99 x 0.74 |             |

SITUATION- I happened to see this colorful bird go into its nest in a dead Chestnut snag late one afternoon when we were leaving my cousin's house in Norton, Va. The snag was near the crest of the hill behind his house in the edge of a wood. The entrance hole to the nest was about 15 feet from the ground and after I was finally able to get up to it, the dead wood below the hole could be pulled away rather easily to expose the cavity. The latter was about 6" in diameter, widening at the bottom of the 12" depth to accommodate the adult bird. The entrance hole was an inch and three quarters to two inches in diameter.

No nesting materials of any kind were evident, the five globular, glossy white eggs rested on numerous wood chips.

NAME- Yellow-shafted Flicker A.O.U.NO.412  
(Colaptes auratus) \*\*

DATE- June 2, 1933

NO.- 6

INCUBATION- Fresh

|                |             |             |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|
|                | 1.07 x 0.81 | 1.04 x 0.82 |
| <u>SIZES</u> - | 1.04 x 0.79 | 1.06 x 0.80 |
|                | 1.05 x 0.81 | 1.04 x 0.81 |

SITUATION- This bird chose a dead Beech about 2' in diameter on Terpstra's Farm in Powell's Valley (about six miles from Big Stone Gap, Va.) The tree was on the edge of a wood in a pasture and there were six other woodpecker holes in that particular tree tho' none other seemed occupied.

The entrance hole of this nest was about 4" in diameter and 10" deep; it was about fifteen feet from the ground. The tree began to sway as I climbed it and the Flicker then flew off the eggs. There were no nesting materials, the six fresh globular, glossy white eggs rested only on some wood chips.

\*\* Also known as Common or Northern Flicker

A.O.U. Checklist 1983

NAME- Chuck-Will's-Widow A.O.U.NO. 416  
(Antrostomus carolinensis)\*\*

DATE- May 13, 1934

NO.- 2

INCUBATION- Fresh

SIZES- 1.42 x 0.99  
1.42 x 1.00

SITUATION- This clutch of eggs was obtained at Lynnhaven Inlet, Va. on the same day and within 25 yards of the base of the tree in which we obtained the Osprey eggs (which see). The woods where these eggs were found consisted mostly of Virginia<sup>1/2</sup> Pines with some hardwoods such as oak, intermingled. The nest of this bird was a mere depression in the Pine needles and was within two feet of the base of a large Pine. We did not see the bird, but the two fresh, elliptical, glossy cream colored eggs were spotted and blotched with light shades of brown and tan mixed with some lavender and gray tones. The location and character of the nest as well as the features and sizes of the eggs are all typical of this bird.

\*\* (Caprimulgus carolinensis)

A.O.U. Checklist 1983



NAME- Whip-Poor-Will A.O.U.NO. 417  
(Antrostomus vociferus)\*\*

DATE- May 9, 1935

NO.- 2

INCUBATION- Fresh

SIZES- 1.09 x 0.79  
1.05 x 0.77

SITUATION- The nest of this lovely bird was accidentally found when I almost stepped on her in a grove of second-growth hardwoods at about fifty yards inside the edge of the trees. The female literally flitted away silently in an erratic line of flight and totally disappeared.

There were no nesting materials; the two fresh, elliptical, slightly glossy, pinkish-white eggs irregularly blotched and spotted with light grays and tans were in a small depression on bare oak leaves between two trees which were about four feet apart.

Near Dorchester, Va. - approximately eleven miles from Big Stone Gap.

\*\* (Caprimulgus vociferus)

A.O.U. Checklist 1983

NAME- Ruby Throated Hummingbird  
 (Archilochus colubris)  
DATE- July 6, 1935 A.O.U.NO.- 428  
NO.- 1 SIZE- 0.49 x 0.34  
INCUBATION- Fresh

SITUATION- On a very warm afternoon in midsummer, just over a hundred yards from our house, I spotted the nest of this gorgeous little bird on a horizontal limb of a Beech tree about 15 feet from the trunk of the tree which was about 18" in diameter at the level of that supporting limb. The exquisite little nest - which looked from the ground like a natural knot on that particular limb- was also about 15 feet from the ground.

I was about to give up on the possibility of securing the nest and eggs when I went home and came back with 50' of  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch Manila rope and a fine hand saw. I was able to stand on a larger and lower limb so that the rope could be snugly tied to support most of the weight of the limb by tying the rope well above the nest limb. By holding the butt of the limb so it would not roll, cutting it free at the tree, and then carefully inching the limb toward me, I was able to collect the nest and eggs intact. However, in blowing the second egg later, I dropped it and so have only one egg of this species.

As expected, the nest was a true masterpiece of camouflage and beauty. It was firmly held to the limb with spider silk which also seemed to hold the soft down and fibers of the wall of the nest together. The outside was covered with large and small, gray and bluish-green lichens; while the inside cup was lined with soft plant down. The two pure white eggs were fresh and almost translucent. The nest measured about 2" high and in total diam., while inside diam. was about 1" and  $\frac{3}{4}$  deep.

NAME\* - Great Crested Flycatcher  
( Myiarchus crinitus )

(452)

DATE - June 2, 1938

NO. - 5

INCUBATION - Fresh

SITUATION - The nest was located in an old Flicker's hole - the entrance was about 3" in diam. and the actual cavity was about 8" deep and 4" in diam. The entrance was about 20' from the ground in a Maple - A few weeds and grasses along with the usual snake skin constituted the nesting materials. The tree was in the front yard of a home on Univ. Ave., University, Va.

SIZES -

|           |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| .81 x .66 | .79 x .64 | .75 x .66 |
| .78 x .63 | .81 x .65 |           |

(JFEC)



NAME- Eastern Phoebe      A, O, U, NO.- 456  
(Sayornis phoebe)

DATE- April 30, 1934

NO.- 5

INCUBATION- Fresh

|               |             |             |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>SIZES-</u> | 0.77 x 0.57 | 0.76 x 0.57 |
|               | 0.78 x 0.58 | 0.77 x 0.58 |
|               | 0.76 x 0.57 |             |

SITUATION- Neatly placed well out of the weather on a board under a small bridge over a stream was this beautiful nest of the Phoebe. It was rounded and composed of mud intermixed with thin grasses and weeds and covered on the outside by generous amounts of moss which tended to camouflage it well. the inside of the nest was made up of fine and soft plant fibers with significant hair. The nest sloped from the inner rim down to the board which supported it. The dimensions were: Inside diam.  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " Max. outside diam. 5"  
Height  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " Depth  $1\frac{1}{2}$ "

The five fresh, white eggs were oval in shape.

The female bird stayed just outside the culvert, bobbing her tail and watching my every move; occasionally she would utter her plaintive call.

The nest of this bird was about ten feet above the little stream that ran under the bridge.

Near Virginia Episcopal School  
Lynchburg, Va.

NAME- Eastern Wood Pewee A.O.U.NO.- 461  
(Myiochanes virens) \*\*

DATE- June 11, 1935

NO.- 3

INCUBATION- 1/3

SIZES- 0.75 x 0.54 0.74 x 0.54  
0.76 x 0.55

SITUATION- This rather small and beautifully constructed nest appeared like a knot on the horizontal limb about 15 feet above ground and only 4 feet from the trunk of a small locust, 10" in diameter, in a pasture  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile from the V.E.S. campus. Had I not seen the bird fly from the nest I probably would have missed it entirely.

The nest was composed plant fibers and thin stems with rootlets and soft plant down, held together with spider silk and covered on the outside with gray and greenish lichens. It was lined with smaller plant fibers, some plant down and hair. The dimensions were roughly:

|                                |                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Outside diam. $2\frac{1}{2}$ " | Inside diam. $1\frac{3}{4}$ " |
| Height 2"                      | " depth $1\frac{1}{4}$ "      |

The three fresh, creamy white eggs<sup>w</sup>ere oval and for the most part had spots and blotches of tan and brown most prominent as wreaths around each large end.

Near Lynchburg, Va.

\*\* (Contopus virens) A.O.U. Checklist 1983

NAME- Blue Jay A.O.U.NO. - 477  
(Cyanocitta cristata)

DATE- April 29, 1933

NO.- 4

INCUBATION- Fresh

|               |             |             |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|
|               | 1.12 x 0.80 | 1.10 x 0.81 |
| <u>SIZES-</u> | 1.13 x 0.81 | 1.12 x 0.81 |

SITUATION- In a large (Diam. approx. 3ft.) American Hemlock, about 50 ft. from the ground and supported against the tree trunk by two small limbs was this bird's nest. The Hemlock was about 20 ft. up the north bank above the water on Powell's River across from Bullitt Park in Big Stone Gap, Va.

The female was on the nest and allowed me to come quite close before she flew.

The nest was rather bulky and was composed of small sticks and twigs, pieces of newspaper and even some twine. It was lined with small dark brown and black rootlets. It contained four fresh, olive-green eggs so heavily spotted with darker green as to almost obscure the numerous small dots of black.

Dimensions of this nest were roughly as follows:

|               |       |              |     |
|---------------|-------|--------------|-----|
| Outside diam. | 8-10" | Inside Diam. | 3½" |
| Height        | 4"    | " Depth      | 2½" |



NAME- American Crow A.O.U. NO.488  
(Corvus Brachyrhynchos)

DATE- April 9, 1933 NO.- 4

INCUBATION- Fresh

SIZES- 1.78 x 1.17 1.77 x 1.16  
1.76 x 1.14 1.64 x 1.15

SITUATION- This wary bird allowed me to approach within a few feet before she flew straight away and out of sight from her rather large nest which was placed against the trunk and upheld by two limbs about fifty feet up in a huge Beech tree. The latter was in rather heavy timber on Wallen's Ridge near Big Stone Gap, Va.

The nest was close to 24" in greatest diameter, was bulky and composed of large and smaller sticks, rootlets, and some pieces of bark. It was lined with fine rootlets and strips of grapevine bark and it contained four bluish-green eggs which were covered with large and small light brown streaks and splotches.

Other nest dimensions were  
Height : 8" Inside Diam.: 7"  
Depth : 4"

NAME- Common (European) Starling  
(*Sturnus vulgaris*) A.O.U.NO.- 493

DATE- April 4, 1935

NO.- 5

INCUBATION- Fresh

|                |             |             |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>SIZES</u> - | 1.12 x 0.83 | 1.21 x 0.83 |
|                | 1.19 x 0.82 | 1.18 x 0.83 |
|                | 1.18 x 0.82 |             |

SITUATION- In keeping with the habit of this species to nest in any hole large enough for it to get in, this particular bird chose a slanting hole 15 feet from the ground in a Maple. The defect in the tree was obviously the result of a fallen, dead limb, which created an opening at least a foot deep and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide. The nest was composed of sticks, leaves, grasses, a piece of white cloth and other rubbish. The inside diameter was about 3" and consisted of finer grasses and a few feathers.

The five fresh, oval, slightly glossy, bluish-white eggs were otherwise not remarkable. The nest was in a tree on the V.E.S. campus, Lynchburg, Va.

NAME- Cowbird \*\* A.O.U. NO.- 495  
(Molothrus ater)

DATE- May 13, 1935

NO. 1 SIZE- 0.86 x 0.63

INCUBATION- Fresh

SITUATION- This bird, a known parasite, had deposited its much larger whitish egg rather heavily and evenly dotted and spotted with different shades of brown and oval in shape, in the nest of a Maryland Yellow-Throat (Warbler). The latter was located in a small clump of weeds which held the nest about five inches above the ground. The area surrounding the nest was beside a 3-4' wide stream and immediately beneath a 40' high roadway (asphalt) bridge (V.E.S. Road)  
(See Maryland Yellow-Throat, A.O.U. NO. 681)

Near Lynchburg, Va.

\*\* (Brown-headed Cowbird)

A.O.U. Checklist 1983



NAME- Red-Winged Blackbird A.O.U.NO.498  
(Agelaius phoeniceus)

DATE- May 12, 1933

NO.- 4

INCUBATION- Fresh

|               |             |             |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>SIZES-</u> | 1.01 x 0.71 | 1.01 x 0.70 |
|               | 1.00 x 0.72 | 1.02 x 0.71 |

SITUATION- In a freshwater swamp of about two acres, most of which was covered with wild Rose bushes intermixed with cattails, I found the nest of this species. It was saddled between three upright reeds and held to them by interwoven dried rushes and long grasses. It was lined with finer grasses and contained four fresh, oval, somewhat glossy, pale, bluish green eggs, which were scrawled, scratched, and blotched, especially at the larger end with various shades of brown and lavender with generous amounts of black.

The female permitted me to approach within a few feet before she flew.

Near the cemetery, Big Stone Gap, Va.

NAME- Eastern Meadowlark      A.O.U.NO.- 501  
(Sturnella magna)

DATE- July 21, 1934

NO.- 4

INCUBATION-  $\frac{1}{2}$

|                |             |             |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>SIZES</u> - | 1.15 x 0.83 | 1.11 x 0.84 |
|                | 1.14 x 0.83 | 1.20 x 0.83 |

SITUATION- Having seen and heard many of these birds in the "rough" surrounding the Lonesome Pine Country Club in Powell's Valley, about midway between Big Stone Gap and Norton, Va., I was surprised to find this nest so late in the year. Had my golf ball been hit better, I would ~~have~~ certainly never have seen it!

The nest was located about a fourth of the way up a hill in fairly heavy grass and weeds about 8-10" tall. It was well built and skillfully concealed. For the most part it was composed of grasses and weeds woven into the surrounding grasses and arched over similar to a Bobwhite's nest. The lining was made up of softer and finer grasses and contained four oval, moderately glossy, white eggs, heavily spotted, blotched, and dotted with shades of brown and lavender, more heavily at the large end. Later, I found that the eggs had been incubated about one-half.

NAME- Baltimore Oriole\*\* A.O.U.NO.-507  
(Icterus galbula)

DATE- May 20, 1933

NO.- 3

NEST DIMENSIONS-  
Total Length = 3"  
Max Diam. = 3"  
Entrance = 2½x3"

INCUBATION- Fresh

SIZES- 0.89 x 0.60 0.90 x 0.60  
0.90 x 0.61

SITUATION- I was walking through a grove of large yellow poplars in Bullitt Park (Big Stone Gap) when I was attracted by the whistle of a male of this species. Knowing it was the nesting season, I sat down to watch him. He soon flew to one of the prominent limbs that hung down toward the ground and proceeded to join the female who was busy adding to the half-finished nest hanging from the tip of that limb. I watched fascinated by their work and after a while I had to go on home -about ½ mile away.

Two weeks later I returned with a friend who kindly helped me collect this nest with its three eggs: Since the nest was at least 40' from the ground, I had decided to try to sever the twig which supported the nest with my .22 rifle and hope the bed sheet we had suspended would lessen the impact of the fall of the nest and thus protect the ~~egg~~ eggs. We did just that and lost only one of the beautiful eggs. The three that we did get were grayish white with slight gloss and were etched, scrawled, and streaked with several shades of brown and black. They were also oval in shape and fresh.

The nest was a lovely creation of dull and silvery plant fibers neatly woven together and around the small supporting ~~snaxk~~ forked limb, which was the terminal end of that entire large limb. The nest was globular, had a top entrance, and was lined with finer grasses and long black hair.



NAME- Purple Grackle\*\* A.O.U.NO.- 511  
(Quiscalus quiscula)

DATE- April 5, 1932

NO.- 5

INCUBATION- Fresh

|                |             |             |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|
|                | 1.10 x 0.78 | 1.11 x 0.79 |
| <u>SIZES</u> - | 1.12 x 0.78 | 1.10 x 0.80 |
|                | 1.09 x 0.79 |             |

SITUATION- In a small grove of water birches, about twenty in number, a flock of these Grackles chose to make their home. All of these relatively small (15-25' high) trees with the exception of two, had at least one nest and some had as many as three. The one which contained these five fresh, oval, slightly glossy, pale bluish-green eggs spotted, splotched and scrawled with various shades of tan and dark brown, was composed of weed stalks and heavy grasses reinforced with mud. The lining consisted of finer grass and one or two feathers. The nest was rather bulky and also contained several small pieces of paper.

The nest dimensions were  
 Greatest outside diameter: 8"  
 Inside " : 4"  
 Height : 5½"  
 Inside depth : 3½"

At Ball Park, Big Stone Gap, Va.

\*\* (Common Grackle - Quiscalus quiscula)

A.O.U. Checklist 1983

NAME- Boat-Tailed Grackle A.O.U.NO.-513  
(Cassidix mexicanus) \*\*

DATE- MAY 7, 1934

NO.- 4

INCUBATION- 1/5

SIZES- 1.25 x 0.88 1.22 x 0.91  
1.22 x 0.90 1.24 x 0.91

SITUATION- Although this species is much more common near the coast, a small group of these birds were found nesting at various heights in rather tall pines and locusts, some of which had significant honeysuckle and other vines growing up into the trees.

I had watched these birds a few days before taking these eggs and at first I thought they were Purple Grackles, but their larger size and larger eggs, with the longer and typical tail made their identity certain.

This nest was almost 40' up in a Virginia Pine and was placed on the crotch of a 2½" limb about 2' from the trunk of the tree. The nest was bulky and loosely made of various fairly heavy grasses and weeds wound about several smaller supporting limbs. It was lined with finer grasses and weed stems with small amounts of mud intermixed. There were four rather long, oval bluish-gray eggs, slightly glossy; they had prominent spots, scrawl and splotches of browns, darker gray and pale lavender. This description fit three of the eggs, but the fourth had more brown tones than the others and really looked definitely different. The nest was at least 9" in its greatest overall diameter, 3" in its inside depth, 5" inside diameter and at least 4" high. Near V.E.S., Lynchburg, Va.

\*\* (Quiscalus major) A.O.U. Checklist 1983

NAME- American Goldfinch      A.O.U. NO.- 529  
(*Spinus tristis*) \*\*

DATE- July 30, 1936

NO.- 4

INCUBATION- Fresh

SIZES-                      0.65 x 0.49                      0.64 x 0.49  
                                 0.63 x 0.50

SITUATION- The nest of this species was placed about 25' up in the top of a Maple. It was firmly fastened to a three pronged fork by fine vegetable fibers. The nest was lined with hair and thistle-down. It was situated about two feet out from the trunk of the tree on a small limb. The female came quite close to me while I was taking the nest and eggs.

Big Stone Gap, Va.

\*\* (*Carduelis tristis*) A.O.U. Checklist 1983



NAME- Chipping Sparrow A.O.U.NO.- 560  
(Spizella Passerina)

DATE- May 20, 1934

NO.- 4

INCUBATION- Fresh

|                |             |             |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|
|                | 0.70 x 0.50 | 0.69 x 0.51 |
| <u>SIZES</u> - | 0.68 x 0.51 | 0.71 x 0.50 |

SITUATION- This little bird built its compact nest in the middle of a Rose bush on one of the main trunks, but the nest was also supported very well by two horizontal smaller branches. It was about four feet from the ground and consisted fine grasses, a few weed stems, and many rootlets. It was lined with finer grasses and rootlets as well as significant amounts of horsehair.

The four fresh, oval bluish green eggs were spotted, scrawled and blotched with purple, black and darker shades of brown, tending to form a wreath at each larger end. The nest had the following rough dimensions:

|                |                   |               |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Outside diam.: | 4"                | Inside diam.: | 2"                |
| Height :       | 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " | Depth :       | 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " |

Lawn of V.E.S, near Lynchburg, Va.

NAME- Field Sparrow      A.O.U.NO.- 563  
(*Spizella pisilla*) \*\*

DATE- May 25, 1934

NO.- 4

INCUBATION- 1/6

SIZES-      0.70 x 0.52      0.69 x 0.52  
             0.67 x 0.51      0.68 x 0.51

SITUATION-      The nest of this bird was placed about 2' from the ground in a small Hawthorne in a field near Lynchburg, Va. It was against the trunk and supported by three small limbs and was composed of grasses and weed stems, rather bulky, and was lined with finer grasses and horsehair. The four oval pale bluish white, slightly glossy eggs were spotted and dotted, occasionally with small blotches of reddish brown, more numerous at the larger end - tho' not truly wreathed. On blowing these eggs subsequently, I found they were incubated slightly.

\*\* (*Spizella pusilla*)      A.O.U. Checklist 1983

Check list 1983

43

A.O.U.NO.- 688.2

NAME- English (House) Sparrow \*\*  
(Passer domesticus)

DATE- April 15, 1932

NO.- 5

INCUBATION- Fresh

|                |             |             |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|
|                | 0.87 x 0.68 | 0.88 x 0.67 |
| <u>SIZES</u> - | 0.88 x 0.69 | 0.86 x 0.69 |
|                | 0.86 x 0.69 |             |

SITUATION- This birds rather bulky nest was located about ten feet off the ground on a rafter inside a tool shed at Gibson's Farm about four miles south of Big Stone Gap, Va. The nest was composed a mass of weeds, trash (newspaper and string fragments), grasses, and leaves. The entrance was in front and measured about 2" in diameter. The inside was lined with finer grasses, hair, and many feathers - mostly chicken. Inside diam. 2-3".  
The five fresh, slightly glossy, grayish white, oval eggs were spotted and dotted with shades of gray and light tan.

\*\* (House Sparrow) A.O.U. Checklist 1983



NAME- Song Sparrow A.O.U.NO.- 581  
(Melospiza melodia)

DATE- May 20, 1934

NO.- 4

SIZES- 0.78 x 0.61 0.78 x 0.60  
0.79 x 0.60 0.80 x 0.61

INCUBATION- Fresh

SITUATION- I found the nest of this species in a large, dense rosebush, about 8' from the ground; all of which made it difficult to obtain. The nest was roughly cup-shaped and composed of grasses, weed stems, and thin pieces of bark; it was lined with finer grasses, rootlets, and dark hair.

The four fresh, ovoid, light greenish eggs were heavily splotched and dotted with reddish brown, more pronounced near the larger end.

The dimensions of the nest were roughly:

Outside diam.: 6" Inside diam.:  $2\frac{1}{2}$ "  
Height: 4" Depth :  $1\frac{1}{2}$ "

Near V.E.S., Lynchburg, Va.

NAME- Towhee \*\* A.O.U.NO.- 587  
(Pipilo erythrophthalmus)

DATE- May 4, 1933 Nest Dimensions:  
Outside diam.: 5"  
Inside diam. : 2½"  
NO. 4 Height (approx) 3"  
Depth (inside) 2"

INCUBATION- 1/5

SIZES- 0.90 x 0.71 0.88 x 0.70  
0.89 x 0.70 0.88 x 0.72

SITUATION- The nest of this bird was well concealed on the ground at the base of a small white oak and partly covered by a fairly large clump of grass. It was near the edge of a cut-over field. The nest was neatly made of grasses, weed stems, rootlets, and vegetable fibers; it was lined with finer grasses and rootlets.

The four white, slightly glossy, oval eggs were fairly evenly covered with spots and dots of reddish brown which on several eggs, made them appear capped. When the eggs were subsequently blown of the contents, they were found to have been incubated approximately 1/5.

On the hill above the Cemetery  
Big Stone Gap, Va.

\*\* (Rufous-sided Towhee) A.O.U. Checklist  
1983

NAME- Cardinal \*\* A.O.U.NO.- 593  
 (Richmondenda cardinalis)  
DATE- May 17, 1934 Approx. Nest Dimens.:  
 Max. outside diam. 7"  
 Height 3"  
NO.- 3 Inside diam. 2½"  
 Depth 1½"

INCUBATION- Fresh

SIZES- 0.99 x 0.71 0.98 x 0.70  
 1.00 x 0.71

SITUATION- This Cardinal's nest was in a small Dogwood about 5' from the ground. A number of honeysuckle vines had covered part of the tree and this nest was supported by a forked limb of the tree and some of the vines. The nest was loosely constructed of grasses, weed stems, rootlets and small twigs with a lining of finer grasses and rootlets as well as dark hair.

The three fresh oval, pale bluish white eggs were so spotted, dotted and faintly splotched, with various shades of brown and faint lavender as to almost obliterate the ground color.

Near Lynchburg, Va.

\*\* (Cardinalis cardinalis - Northern Cardinal)

A.O.U. Checklist 1983



NAME- Scarlet Tanager      A.O.U.NO.- 608  
(*Piranga erythromelas*) \*\*

DATE- May 25, 1935

NO.- 4

INCUBATION- Fresh

SIZES-      0.91 x 0.66      0.92 x 0.65  
                 0.90 x 0.65      0.93 x 0.64

SITUATION- Having been fortunate to have found the nest and eggs of the Summer Tanager three days before, I could hardly believe it when I heard the male of this species calling from a Poplar just off the main road to school. I sat down on the hill above the tree and watched, hoping he might come into view. I finally saw him with his handsome black wings but after a few minutes, he disappeared only to fly to a smaller Poplar where I finally spotted the nest that I hoped was his. The female appeared about that time and did not like my presence.

This nest also, was on a horizontal limb, but only about 8' from the ground and 10' from the tree trunk. I was able to grasp the limb very carefully with a stout stick, pull it down sufficiently to take hold and work the nest within my grasp.

Fortunately the rather flimsy nest held together and the eggs did not roll out! The nest was almost identical to the summer Tanager's, but the eggs were paler and not as attractively marked.

Approx. a mile and a half from  
V.E.S., Lynchburg, Va.

\*\* (*Piranga olivacea*) A.O.U. Checklist 1983

NAME- Summer Tanager A.O.U.NO.- 610  
(Piranga rubra)

DATE- May 22, 1935

NO.- 4

INCUBATION- Fresh

SIZES- 0.91 x 0.63 0.92 x 0.63  
0.90 x 0.60 0.88 x 0.63

SITUATION- I was walking a small country road on my way back to school late in the afternoon when I saw the male of this species fly ahead of me into a small White Oak limb which was over the road. At first I thought it was a Cardinal, but as I cautiously and very slowly came closer, I knew it had to be this species. The bird moved up into the tree and in maneuvering to get a better look, I spotted the female on the nest on the same limb where the male had first lit.

Both birds then left the tree and I climbed up to that limb which was about 10' above the road. The nest was about 6' out from the trunk and was supported by it and another two-pronged, horizontal limb. It was composed of grasses, pieces of bark and weed stems and contained four slightly glossy, pale blue, oval eggs, handsomely spotted and speckled with shades of brown, more obvious near the larger end. The nest lining consisted of fine grass. The nest was a fairly loose tho' well built structure with overall dimensions:

Outside diam.:  $4\frac{1}{2}$ " Inside diam.: 3"  
Height :  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " Depth :  $1\frac{1}{2}$ "

Near Lynchburg, Va.

NAME- Barn Swallow  
(*Hirundo rustica*)

A.O.U. NO.- 613

DATE- June 21, 1936

NO.- 4

INCUBATION- Fresh

SIZES- 0.76 x 0.52  
0.78 x 0.53

0.77 x 0.53  
0.78 x 0.53

SITUATION- The nest was situated on a beam about 12' from the floor in an old shack on Cedar Is., Va. (About three miles from Wachapreague, Va.) The nest was fastened to the side of the beam with mud pellets interwoven with grasses- the interior of the nest was lined with fine grasses and feathers.

There were about six or eight other nests of this species in the same shack, it being the only suitable place in which the birds could build. Most of the other nests observed contained very well developed young.

The four oval, white eggs were smooth with spots and dots of several shades of brown. The eggs were fresh.



NAME- Rough-Winged Swallow<sup>\*\*</sup> A.O.U.NO.- 617  
(*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*)

DATE- May 23, 1934

NO.- 6

INCUBATION- Fresh

|                |             |             |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>SIZES</u> - | 0.75 x 0.52 | 0.74 x 0.51 |
|                | 0.76 x 0.51 | 0.75 x 0.52 |
|                | 0.75 x 0.52 | 0.76 x 0.52 |

SITUATION- While walking along the James River, I saw this bird fly to a spot among some rather large rocks on the riverbank and disappear. On investigating the site, I found a two inch opening in the soft earth from which the swallow suddenly flushed. Inspection revealed a one foot tunnel which the birds had made between the rocks, that led to a chamber which held the nest. The diameter of this terminus of the tunnel was just adequate to accommodate the 3-4" nest, which was composed of dry grasses and lined with finer grasses and horsehair, but no feathers. I got a good look at the bird and feel confident of its identity. In addition, there was no evidence of any other swallows in that section.

The six white fresh eggs long and oval, with a slight gloss - all of which made them appear almost translucent.

Near Lynchburg, Va.

<sup>\*\*</sup> (Northern Rough-winged Swallow)

A.O.U. Checklist 1983

NAME- Red-Eyed Vireo  
(Vireo olivaceus)

A.O.U.NO.- 624

DATE- May 21, 1933

NO.- 3

INCUBATION- Fresh

SIZES- 0.82 x 0.57 0.73 x 0.59  
0.78 x 0.60

SITUATION- In an area of older hardwoods and moderate secondary growth of White and Black Oaks, Maples, and Dogwoods, I saw this nest about 4' above the ground in a horizontal fork of a young White Oak. The female came close enough to be sure of its identity before it flew away.

The nest was a beautiful cup shaped structure well suspended and held to the small limbs of the fork by intertwining grasses and silvery plant fibers. Plant down and spider web with a few lichens on the outside of the nest made it blend in nicely with its surroundings. The nest lining consisted of fine weed stems and thin grasses.

Two of the three fresh, dull white eggs were oval, but the third was more elliptical. Each however, had a few black and dark brown spots, especially around the larger end.

Nest dimensions were approximately as follows:

Outside Diam.: 3"

Inside Diam.:  $2\frac{1}{4}$ "

Height :  $3\frac{1}{4}$ "

Depth :  $1\frac{3}{4}$ "

Near Ball Park, Big Stone Gap, Va.

NAME- White-Eyed Vireo      A.O.U.NO.- 631  
(Vireo griseus)

DATE- May 12, 1933

NO.- 3

INCUBATION- Fresh

SIZES-      0.74 x 0.41      0.75 x 0.41  
             0.76 x 0.42

SITUATION- I had found this nest about a week before in a small holly bush about 2' off the ground in an old field about 25 yards from the edge of a wood. At that time it had one egg so I decided to return later for a full clutch. Fortunately, the female was on the nest and by being very cautious and slow, I was able to get a good look at her before she flushed. To my delight there were two more eggs.

The nest was a real work of art and was hanging from a horizontal fork on one of the lower limbs of the small American Holly. It was constructed of grass, bark strips, a few pieces of small soft wood and one or two dried leaves; and it all seemed to be held together with spider silk and soft downy plant material. It was more like a conical oriole's nest, being longer than the Red-eyed Vireo's nest. This nest was lined with fine weed and grass stems with a few dark hairs.

The three white eggs were fresh, oval, without gloss and were lightly spotted with only a few dots of black and brown around the larger end.

The dimensions of the nest were as follows:

|                |     |               |     |
|----------------|-----|---------------|-----|
| Outside Diam.: | 3"  | Inside Diam.: | 2½" |
| Height :       | 3½" | Depth :       | 2"  |

Hood's Pasture, near Big Stone Gap, Va



NAME- Yellow Warbler A.O.U.NO.- 652  
(*Dendroica aestiva*)\*\*

DATE- May 22, 1935

|                     |       |                        |     |
|---------------------|-------|------------------------|-----|
|                     |       | <u>Nest Dimensions</u> |     |
| <u>NO.</u> -        | 4     | Outside Diam.:         | 2½" |
|                     |       | Inside Diam.:          | 2"  |
|                     |       | Height :               | 3½" |
| <u>INCUBATION</u> - | Fresh | Depth :                | 1½" |

|                |             |             |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>SIZES</u> - | 0.62 x 0.48 | 0.61 x 0.48 |
|                | 0.62 x 0.49 | 0.61 x 0.49 |

SITUATION- This beautiful little bird was spotted on its nest about 12' from the ground in the three-pronged fork of a young Gum about 20' from a small stream in fairly open terrain.

The nest was an exquisite creation of soft, silvery plant fibers interwoven with grasses and thin, light grapevine bark. The lining was fine plant down, thin grasses and a few hairs.

The four fresh, oval, bluish white eggs were spotted and lightly splashed with shades of brown, light lavender and black - especially around the larger end.

Three- quarters of a mile from V.E.S.  
Near Lynchburg, Va.

\*\* (*Dendroica petechia*) A.O.U. Checklist 1983

NAME- Ovenbird A.O.U.NO. - 674  
(Seiurus aurocapillus)

DATE- May 10, 1935

NO.- 6

INCUBATION- Fresh

|                |             |             |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|
|                | 0.74 x 0.55 | 0.75 x 0.55 |
| <u>SIZES</u> - | 0.73 x 0.54 | 0.75 x 0.56 |
|                | 0.72 x 0.56 | 0.73 x 0.55 |

SITUATION- While walking through some hardwoods with a significant, but low undergrowth, I almost stepped on this birds nest. Fortunately, she was on the nest and flushed just before I reached her with my big foot! I knelt down and carefully searched a few minutes before I found the well built and cleverly concealed nest which was arched over. It was impossible to see from above.

The nest was placed near an old log in a clump of weeds. It was composed of weed stems, grasses, strips of bark, leaves, and was lined with fine rootlets and horse hair. As noted, it was arched over with the same materials, so that the side opening was at ground level.

The white, oval, fresh eggs were spotted and blotched with light and dark shades of brown and pale lavender, more pronounced at the larger end and tending to form a wreath.

Nest Dimensions:

Outside diam.:  $6\frac{1}{2}$ "      Inside Diam.: 3"  
Height (INCL roof) 5" Entrance 2" x  $2\frac{1}{2}$ "

Near Lynchburg, Va.

NAME- Louisiana Water Thrush  
(Seiurus motacilla)

DATE- April 21, 1935

NO.- 5

INCUBATION- Fresh

|                |             |             |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|
|                | 0.72 x 0.60 | 0.71 x 0.57 |
| <u>SIZES</u> - | 0.72 x 0.58 | 0.70 x 0.59 |
|                | 0.72 x 0.58 |             |

SITUATION- In a ravine in deep woods about 3' above a stream and under an overhanging bank covered with moss, I found this nest. Although I never did see the owner of this nest, I had purposely come looking for it because I had seen this species several times along this same creek.

The nest was well protected and well cocealed under the bank. It was bulky and composed of old muddy leaves which were dried, packed close together and more numerous at the front. In addition, small twigs and weed stems with a few dead leaves made up the remainder of the nest except for the lining of finer grasses and rootlets. Nest Dimensions were

Outside diam. (max.): 4" Height : 6"  
Inside diam. : 2½" Depth : 2"

The five oval, creamy white, fresh eggs were spotted and dotted with several shades of reddish brown and faint lilac, especially near the larger end.

Near Lynchburg, Va.



A.O.U.NO.- 681

NAME - Maryland Yellow-Throated Warbler \*\*  
(Geothlypis trichas)

DATE- May 13, 1935

NO.- 5

INCUBATION- Fresh

SIZES- 0.66 x 0.52      0.68 x 0.51  
0.65 x 0.50      0.67 x 0.51  
0.69 x 0.52

SITUATION- The nest of this species was found in a rather large clump of weeds which held it about 5" above the ground in an open area beside a 3-4' stream and immediately beneath a 40' highway bridge.

The neat little nest was made up dried grasses, small leaves, weed stems, and a few rushes to form a cup, the lining of which consisted of fine grasses and hair. A Cowbird had deposited one egg in this nest and it is included in this collection (Which See)

The eggs of this bird were five in number, oval, shiny white and fresh. Each was blotched and spotted with black, chestnut and occasional pale lilac, more numerous near the larger end.

#### Nest Dimensions

Outside diam. : 2 3/4"      Inside diam.: 2"  
Height : 2 1/2"      Depth : 1 1/2"

Near Lynchburg, Va.

\*\* (Common  
Yellow-throat)

A.O.U. Checklist 1983

NAME- Yellow-Breasted Chat A.O.U.NO.-683  
(*Icteria virens*)

DATE- May 31, 1932

NO.- 3

INCUBATION- Fresh

SIZES- 0.88 x 0.70 0.89 x 0.69  
0.89 x 0.69

SITUATION- In an old pasture, grown up with briars, weeds and small trees, this bird made its nest in a small White Oak about 4' from the ground amid tangled Greenbrier. The nest was on a horizontal limb about two feet from the trunk, supported by two adjacent branches and the vines. It was composed of weed stems, larger grasses, and several dead leaves and had a lining of fine grasses and weed stems.

The three fresh, oval, glossy white eggs had spots and specks of tan and lavender, more numerous at the larger end. The adult bird kept within sight most of the time we were at the nest. Dimensions of the latter were  
Outside diam. :  $5\frac{1}{2}$ " Inside diam.: 3"  
Height :  $3\frac{1}{4}$ " Depth : 2"

Gibson's Farm, near Big Stone Gap, Va.

NAME- Mockingbird \*\* A.O.U.NO.-703  
(Mimus polyglottos)

DATE- May 23, 1933

NO.- 5

INCUBATION- Fresh

|               |             |             |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|
|               | 1.00 x 0.74 | 0.99 x 0.73 |
| <u>SIZES-</u> | 0.98 x 0.72 | 0.99 x 0.72 |
|               | 1.00 x 0.73 |             |

SITUATION- Straddling several large trunks of Virginia Creeper which had formed a dense entanglement on a wire fence not far from the Clubhouse of the Lonesome Pine Country Club, this bird had fashioned its bulky nest of twigs (including generous thorns!), grasses, rootlets and weed stems. The lining consisted fine rootlets and grasses, as well as some moss. The dimensions of the nest were

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Outside diam. : 8" | Inside diam. : 3½" |
| Height : 4"        | Depth : 2"         |

The five fresh, blunted oval, bluish green, slightly glossy eggs were heavily freckled and splotched with shades of brown.

Approximately seven miles from  
Big Stone Gap, Va. in Powell's  
Valley

\*\* Northern Mockingbird

A.O.U. Checklist 1983



NAME- Catbird \*\* A.O.U.NO.- 704  
(Dumetella carolinensis)

DATE- May 23, 1934

NO.- 5 INCUBATION- Fresh

SIZES- 0.94 x 0.70 0.95 x 0.68  
0.94 x 0.69 0.93 x 0.70  
0.93 x 0.69

SITUATION- This nest was located about 4' from the ground in a three-pronged fork of a 10' Mock Orange bush in a garden. The nest was well hidden by the foliage and was rather bulky, consisting of long grasses and strips of grapevine bark intermixed with weed stems, leaves, and several bits of paper. It was rather deeply cupped and lined with fine rootlets. The overall dimensions were

Outside diam. : 6" Inside diam.: 3"  
Height : 3½" Depth : 2¼"

The five fresh, oval, glossy eggs were a beautiful, deep bluish green, unmarked.

The female kept moving about, uttering her occasional typical call.

Near Lynchburg, Va.

\*\* (Gray Catbird - Dumetella carolinensis)

A.O.U. Checklist 1983

NAME- Brown Thrasher      A.O.U.NO. - 705  
(Toxostoma rufum)

DATE- April 28, 1933

NO.- 4

INCUBATION- Fresh

|                |             |             |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>SIZES</u> - | 1.03 x 0.80 | 1.05 x 0.80 |
|                | 1.05 x 0.79 | 1.04 x 0.80 |

SITUATION- On the west side of Powell's River, across from the Ball Park in Big Stone Gap, Va. is an elliptical shaped hill about 125' high and perhaps 200 yds. long and maybe 100 yds. at its widest portion. It is well known locally as Turtle-back. In addition to a fair number of Yellow Locusts it also grew many Hawthorne bushes up to 15' tall. Many of these thorny plants grew singly, but most were in groups. In one of the more dense of the latter, this bird built its bulky nest, <sup>6' above the</sup> of <sup>the</sup> ground thorn sticks and twigs which supported the grasses, weed stems, grapevine bark strips, and leaves which made up the greater portion of the nest. The lining consisted entirely of fine rootlets. Nest dimensions were

|                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Outside diam.: 9"         | Inside diam.: 4"          |
| Height: 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ " | Depth : 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " |

The four fresh, oval eggs were pale bluish white, spotted and dotted with reddish brown rather evenly and heavily over the entire egg surface.

NAME- House Wren A.O.U.NO.- 721  
(Troglodytes aedon)

DATE- May 27, 1934

NO.- 8

INCUBATION- Fresh

|               |             |             |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|
|               | 0.65 x 0.50 | 0.63 x 0.52 |
| <u>SIZES-</u> | 0.63 x 0.51 | 0.65 x 0.51 |
|               | 0.64 x 0.50 | 0.63 x 0.51 |
|               | 0.65 x 0.51 | 0.64 x 0.52 |

SITUATION- This cheerful little bird made its nest on a beam 7' above the ground near a corner of an old barn. It was a large mass of grasses, weed stems, a few rootlets and many chicken feathers. The lining was cup-shaped and composed of finer grasses, rootlets, hair, and smaller feathers. Overall dimensions of the nest were

Outside diam.: 8"      Inside diam.:  $2\frac{1}{2}$ "

The nest was partially arched over with the entrance on the wooden beam.

The eight eggs were quite similar except one was definitely lighter than the others. Each was fresh, oval with a slight gloss and so heavily dotted and spotted reddish brown as to appear almost pink. Most of the eggs were more heavily marked at the larger end.

Near Lynchburg, Va.



NAME- Winter Wren A.O.U.NO.- 722  
(Nannus hiemalis)\*\*

DATE - June 22, 1933

NO. - 5

INCUBATION - Fresh

|                |             |             |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|
|                | 0.66 x 0.51 | 0.65 x 0.51 |
| <u>SIZES</u> - | 0.65 x 0.50 | 0.65 x 0.50 |
|                | 0.64 x 0.51 |             |

SITUATION - A friend and I accidentally found the nest of this unusual little bird when we stopped to rest and sat on a large root of an ancient oak which had fallen years before. The bird flushed not more than 3' from us and lit on the broken branch of the tree about 20' away. Although it was at first thought to be a House Wren, its very short, straight-up-in-the-air tail didn't fit. We later identified it as this species.

We found the nest after considerable searching, in the moss covered root system of the old tree between two large roots where the birds had brought quite a collection small twigs, weed stems, grasses and rootlets, as well as generous amounts of moss. The small entrance led into an immediate cavity which was lined fine grasses, hair and feathers.

The five fresh, oval, white eggs were covered with fine dots of reddish brown rather evenly and not nearly as dense as those of the House Wren.

Gibson's Farm near Big Stone Gap, Va.

\*\* (Troglodytes troglodytes)

A.O.U. Checklist 1983

NAME- Chicadee, Carolina A.O.U. NO.- 736  
(*Penthestes carolinensis*) \*\*

DATE- May 7, 1934

NO.- 3

INCUBATION- Fresh

SIZES- 0.58 x 0.43      0.56 x 0.45  
0.56 x 0.44

SITUATION- I had discovered this nest about a week before when it had only three eggs and came back on the above date to find four eggs and the bird had apparently deserted. Unfortunately, I broke one of the four while trying to blow it.

In any event, the nest was in a fencepost along the edge of a wood and was about 4' from the ground. The entrance hole was a little over an inch in diameter and the cavity was about 6" deep and  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " wide at the bottom. Nesting materials consisted of fine grasses, hair, fur, moss and plant down.

The three small fresh, pointed eggs were white with reddish brown dots and spots, numerous enough to form a wreath around the larger end.

Near Lynchburg, Va.

\*\* (*Parus carolinensis*) A.O.U. Checklist  
1983

NAME- Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher A.O.U.NO.- 751  
(*Polioptila caerulea*)

DATE- May 16, 1935

NO.- 4

INCUBATION- 1/5

SIZES- 0.54 x 0.44 0.56 x 0.44  
0.56 x 0.43  
0.55 x 0.43

SITUATION- On a 1" in diameter horizontal limb about 15' from the ground and 3' from the trunk of the 25' Walnut in what appeared to be an old pasture, was the exquisite nest of this little bird. The nest was well camouflaged and composed of vegetable fibers, fine rootlets, soft plant down and covered with lichens. It was skillfully and beautifully bound to the limb which supported it and to its component parts with silken fibers and spidersilk. The nest dimensions were

|                |                   |               |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Outside diam.: | $2\frac{1}{4}"$   | Inside diam.: | $1\frac{1}{4}"$   |
| Height         | : $2\frac{1}{4}"$ | Depth         | : $1\frac{1}{4}"$ |

The four bluish white, oval eggs had a few reddish brown spots and dots distributed fairly evenly except for the larger ends which were more numerous and tended to be wreathed. When I blew the eggs later, they were found to have been incubated approximately one-fifth.

Near Lynchburg, Va.



NAME- Wood Thrush A.O.U.NO.- 755  
(Hylocichla mustelina)

DATE- May 28, 1934

NO.- 4

INCUBATION- Fresh

|                |             |             |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>SIZES</u> - | 1.03 x 0.73 | 1.02 x 0.73 |
|                | 1.00 x 0.71 | 1.01 x 0.72 |

SITUATION- This bird had placed its nest only 4' from the ground in a 15' Dogwood. The nest was supported by a three-pronged fork of the tree and was made of grasses, weed stems, rootlets and some mud intermixed with the above, including leaves. The lining consisted almost entirely of fine rootlets. The entire nest was firm and compact.

The four fresh eggs were oval with a slight gloss and were of uniform bluish green throughout.

Nest Dimensions were

|               |                    |              |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Outside Diam. | : 5"               | Inside Diam. | : $3\frac{1}{4}$ " |
| Height        | : $4\frac{1}{2}$ " | Depth        | : 2"               |

Near Lynchburg, Va.

NAME- American Robin A.O.U.NO.- 761  
(*Turdus migratorius*)

DATE- May 2, 1934

NO.- 4

INCUBATION- Fresh

SIZES- 1.13 x 0.76 1.15 x 0.78  
1.15 x 0.77 1.14 x 0.77

SITUATION- On a horizontal forked limb of a young Apple tree about 2' from the trunk and 15' from the ground was this birds nest. It was a firm, fairly compact structure of long grasses and weed stems held together with mud. The lining was made of only finer grasses.

Outside Diam. : 6" Inside Diam. :  $4\frac{1}{4}$ "  
Height :  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " Depth :  $2\frac{1}{2}$ "

The nest contained four fresh oval, greenish blue, slightly glossy eggs.

Near Lynchburg, Va.

NAME- Eastern Bluebird      A.O.U.N.  
(Sialia sialis)

DATE- May 28, 1934

NO.- 4

INCUBATION- Fresh

|                |             |             |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>SIZES</u> - | 0.81 x 0.62 | 0.81 x 0.62 |
|                | 0.80 x 0.61 | 0.82 x 0.62 |

SITUATION- The nest of this favorite bird was located about five feet off the ground in a telephone pole. The entrance hole was 2" in diameter and the cavity was  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " in depth and about the same in diameter. The nesting materials consisted of weed stems and grasses with finer grasses for the lining.

The four fresh, oval, glossy eggs were a pale bluish white and unmarked.

Near Lynchburg, Va.



Second Trip to Study the Nesting  
Habits of Bald Eagles in Eastern  
Virginia.

March 17, 1938

\*\*\*\*\*

(J.F.B. Camblos)

Princess Anne Co., Va. - Mar. 19, 1938.

NEST #1

Location: *edge of marsh in  
rather heavy woods - largest tree in  
that section - 85' - living pine  
5' in diam.*

Time of Use: *2 years*

Development of Birds: *4 years (app.)  
full grown*

Complements of Nest: *usual material  
(see 1937 account)*

Situation of Nest: *see 1937 account*

Food in Nest:

*Did not go up - probably  
young -*

Dimensions:

height-  
diam.-  
depth-

*(see 1937  
account)*

Remarks:

*Did not climb up to nest  
decided must have young -*

NEST #2

Occupied by  
Great Horned-Owls

Location: In very heavy  
trees about 45' high <sup>woods</sup>

Time of Use: at least 3 years

Development of Birds: see  
photos

Complements of Nest:

No additions made by  
Owls

Situation of Nest: against trunk  
and supported by three large  
limbs

Food in Nest: few bones and  
feathers —  
no actual food —

Dimensions:

height- 4'

diam.- 5'

depth- 4"

Remarks:

~~At~~ Female stayed in  
vicinity & uttered rather  
low 'hoo-e' every few  
minutes — flew quite close  
to Jack once —



General remarks:

Nest # 3

Location - on edge of small clearing overgrown with small trees, bushes all of which was covered with honeysuckle so thick as to make passage difficult - Tree 90' high

Time of Use - At least 2 yrs. & probably three -

Develop. of Birds - Full grown

Complements of Nest - heavy sticks & twigs lined with rushes & marsh grass -

Situation of Nest - in top-most fork - upheld by three limbs & against trunk -

Food in nest - eel about 3' long - head & part of anterior body eaten - also remains of Croaker - about 6" left -

Dimensions -  
ht. - 5'  
diam. - 5'  
depth - 6"

Remarks - contained 2 young birds about 12 or 24 hrs. old & 1 egg incub. 9/10



J. F. B. CAMBLOS  
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UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

LONGIPENNES-

2.19 X 1.58  
2.10 X 1.54  
2.06 X 1.56

LARI DAE-

1.63 X 1.25  
1.64 X 1.22  
1.64 X 1.20

58 Laughing Gull  
63 Gull-Billed Tern 1.65 X 1.20  
70 Common Tern 1.74 X 1.24  
1.63 X 1.24

RYNCHOPIDAE-

60 Black Skimmer 1.93 X 1.27  
2.00 X 1.26  
2.00 X 1.25

HERODIONES-

ARDEI DAE-

191 Least Bittern 1.18 X .92  
1.21 X .91  
1.19 X .93

PALUDICOLAE-

1.63 X 1.18  
1.58 X 1.18  
1.62 X 1.17  
1.63 X 1.18  
1.58 X 1.17  
1.59 X 1.17

RALLI DAE-

211 Clapper Rail 1.65 X 1.17  
1.56 X 1.17  
1.60 X 1.18  
1.63 X 1.19

LIMICOLAE-

SCOLOPACI DAE-

2.14 X 1.46  
2.01 X 1.43  
2.01 X 1.41  
2.03 X 1.47

258 Willet  
263 Spotted Sandpiper  
273 Killdeer 1.24 X .97  
1.25 X .96  
1.21 X .94  
1.21 X .96  
1.26 X .95  
1.25 X .96  
1.24 X .97

GALLINAE-

ODONTOPHORI DAE-

289 Bob-White 1.20 X .96  
1.24 X .96  
1.24 X .96  
1.21 X .95  
1.23 X .95  
1.24 X .98  
1.22 X .96

COLUMBAE-

COLUMBI DAE-

1.05 X .80  
1.09 X .78

313 Mourning Dove

RAPTORES-

CATHARTI DAE-

2.75 X 1.95  
2.79 X 1.95  
2.98 X 2.05  
3.06 X 2.04

Turkey Vulture 325  
Black Vulture 326

BUTEONI DAE-

1.94 X 1.48  
1.88 X 1.50  
1.84 X 1.51  
1.92 X 1.48  
2.33 X 1.86

Cooper's Hawk 333  
Red-Tailed Hawk 337

FALCONI DAE-

1.50 X 1.15  
1.42 X 1.12  
1.39 X 1.08  
1.36 X 1.10  
1.43 X 1.12

American  
Sparrow  
Hawk

PANDIONI DAE-

2.35 X 1.77  
2.40 X 1.79  
2.40 X 1.78

American Osprey

STRIGI DAE-

1.37 X 1.19  
1.37 X 1.19  
1.39 X 1.20

375 Screech Owl  
Great-Horned  
Owl



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COCCYGES-

CUCULI DAE- 1.16 X .92  
1.15 X .94  
1.19 X .88

387 Yellow-Billed Cuckoo

ALCEDINI DAE- 1.29 X 1.04  
1.27 X 1.05  
1.26 X 1.03  
1.28 X 1.03  
1.25 X 1.05  
1.28 X 1.04

390 Belted Kingfisher

PICI-

PICIDAE- .94 X .74  
.91 X .74  
.92 X .75  
.95 X .75  
.91 X .69

406 Red-Headed Woodpecker

412 Yellow-Shafted Flicker  
1.06 X .82 1.05 X .82  
1.09 X .82 1.06 X .81  
1.08 X .81 1.03 X .82

MACROCHIRES-

CAPRIMULGI DAE-

1.40 X 1.00  
1.41 X .99

Chuck-Will's-

Widow

✓ Whip-Poor-Will

TROCHILI DAE-

1.49 X .92

Ruby-Throated  
Hummingbird

PASSERES-

TYRANNI DAE-

✓ Crested Flycatcher

TYRANNI DAE-

Phoebe .77 X .55  
Wood Pewee .75 X .54  
.76 X .54

CORVIDAE-

Blue Jay 1.13 X .82  
American Crow 1.15 X .84  
1.08 X .83  
1.10 X .82

STURNI DAE-

European Starling

ICTERI DAE-

.96 X .69  
.96 X .68  
.96 X .68  
.95 X .67

.87 X .61  
.88 X .62  
.88 X .62

.86 X .63  
Cowbird  
Red-Winged Blackbird  
Meadowlark  
Baltimore Oriole  
Purple Grackle  
Boat-Tailed Grackle

FRINGILLI DAE-

American Goldfinch  
English Sparrow  
Chipping Sparrow  
Field Sparrow  
Eastern Song Sparrow  
Towhee  
Cardinal

TANGARI DAE-

Scarlet Tanager  
Summer Tanager



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PASSERES-

HIRUNDINI DAE-

Barn Swallow  
Bank Swallow

VIREONIDAE-

✓ Red-Eyed Vireo  
✓ White-Eyed Vireo

MNIOTILTIDAE-

Yellow Warbler  
✓ Oven-Bird  
✓ Louisiana Water-Thrush  
Maryland Yellow-Throat  
Yellow-Breasted Chat

MIMIDAE-

Mockingbird  
Catbird  
Brown Thrasher

TROGLODYTIDAE-

✓ Carolina Wren  
House Wren  
Winter Wren

PARIDAE-

Carolina Chickadee

SYLVIIDAE-

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher

TURDIDAE-

Wood Thrush  
American Robin  
Eastern Bluebird